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HISTORY

—OF—

THE GREAT ISLAND

AND

WILLIAM DUNN,

ITS OWNER, AND FOUNDER OF DUNNSTOWN.

By JOHN F. MEGINNESS,

("JOHN OF LANCASTER.")

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.:
GAZETTE AND BULLETIN PRINTING HOUSE.
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TO THE READER.

The following pages were first printed in THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL, a quarterly magazine published by the subscriber—running through three consecutive issues—which will account for the break in the numbering of the sheets at pages 46, 175 and 217. The book has been bound in this form for the convenience of libraries and persons who may prefer the history of the Great Island and William Dunn detached from the magazine.

JOHN F. MEGINNESS.

November 1, 1894.

THE
HISTORICAL JOURNAL
A QUARTERLY RECORD.

"Out of monuments, names, wordes, proverbs, traditions, private records, and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of bookes, and the like, we doe save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time."—BACON.

Vol. II.

1894.

No. 1.

THE GREAT ISLAND.

Its Early History, and Ownership by William Dunn,
the Founder of Dunnstown.

[Inasmuch as it has been announced that the residents of Dunnstown, Clinton County, Pa., will celebrate the centennial of their town on the 13th of June, 1894, it may not be out of place to give something of the history of the town and its founder, William Dunn, as well as the famous Great Island, on which he settled in 1770.]

FROM the first appearance of white men in the valley of the West Branch of the Susquehanna, the Great Island has been a historical landmark. It lies in the river near the city of Lock Haven, Pa., and contains 325 acres of rich alluvial land. On account of the great fertility of the soil, it was a favorite place among the Indians for the cultivation of corn; and they not only pitched their wigwams upon it, but they had villages both above and below, on the main land. Its location and surroundings were peculiarly attractive and beautiful, and it was a favorite place of rendezvous for the untutored children of the forest when they tarried in the valley. These Indians were Munseys, a branch of the Delaware tribe, and they claimed the Island and the country north of the river as their hunting ground.

Many councils for peace and war were held on the Island; there the Indians met and enjoyed their sports and amusements; there they were free and unrestrained in their worship of the Great Spirit. Nestling under the shadow of the surrounding mountains, clothed in their garments of perennial green, one familiar with the location can easily picture the primitive beauty of the Island and its surroundings when the aborigines were its owners and occupants.

The river, issuing through its gateway in the mountains a short distance above, laved its sides with a current as pure as crystal, whilst Bald Eagle Creek, almost as large, poured its waters into the river on the south side. Fishes abounded in these streams, and the purling mountain rivulets were filled with trout. Game was plenty in the mountains and valley. What more could be desired by the natives for their sustenance, pleasure and happiness? This region was to them an elysian home—a paradise with wilderness surroundings.

Several great Indian paths converged at the Island, making it a tarrying point for parties traveling up and down the river. One of these paths led over the mountains to the Allegheny River, another ascended the Bald Eagle and bore south to the Juniata, whilst another led down the valley and intercepted other paths at Lycoming Creek. These were the great Indian thoroughfares of early times, and at many places in the mountains their beaten track can still be pointed out.

FIRST WHITE MEN.

The first white men to visit the Great Island were the French, when they came from their strongholds on the lakes and the valley of the Allegheny River as emissaries, seeking to turn the Indians against the English. And later they came in larger bodies with the savages when they contemplated an attack on Fort Augusta (now Sunbury), in 1756. During the French occupancy of the lake regions they were

anxious to gain control of this portion of the State, and very likely would have succeeded had not Quebec fallen into the hands of the English. That disaster marked the decline of French domination in Canada and North-western Pennsylvania.

The Moravian missionaries, David Zeisberger and John Martin Mack, were the first white men to visit the Great Island who have left us any account of what they saw and the condition of the Indians. This was in 1748, the year of the Indian famine in the valley. It was the custom of the Moravians to keep a journal when on their travels, and note down daily everything of importance that came under their observation. Zeisberger and his companion reached the Great Island July 11, 1748, and this is what he entered in his journal:

Towards evening reached the Great Island and found Indians at home, residing on this side of the Island. They asked us from whence we came, and whether we had aught to sell. When told that we were not traders, but had only come to visit them, it was incomprehensible to them. But a few old squaws were living on the Island; the men had been driven away by the famine. We consequently remained on this side of the Island, and asked an Indian whether we could lodge in his hut. He took us in cordially and spread a bear-skin for us to sleep on; but he had nothing for us to eat. Ascertained that he was a Five Nation Indian, and his wife a Shawanese; whereupon Brother Zeisberger conversed with him. His father, who is upwards of seventy years of age, was dying of small-pox, and was a most pitiable object. His case, and that of the Indians here, enlisted our sympathies and silent prayers.

In the evening we were visited by a number of Indians—Shawanese and Cayugas. Here dwelt in three houses Shawanese, Maquas and Delawares; among the latter an Indian from Albany, who spoke Low Dutch. In all three houses were cases of small pox. In one hung a kettle in which grass was being stewed, which they ate with avidity.

July 12, 1748. Brother Zeisberger learned from our host that many Indians passed and repassed his hut. To-day he brought out some dried venison and gave us some, and we in turn gave his child some of our bread, for which they were very thankful.

In the afternoon told our host we desired to visit the Island to see the Indians there, and he, unasked, went with us and led us to all the huts. We

found some clever people here who had just returned from the woods, and who shared with us grapes, green and hard, which they ate with avidity. We prayed silently to the Lord to have mercy on this people.

Returned to our lodgings, and our host again asked us why we had come so far, and had we not come in search of land? He said there was fine land in the neighborhood. We explained that was not our object.

July 13. We found an opportunity to speak to our host of the Saviour. He had heard somewhat of God, and said he believed what we had told him was good and true. He then gave us some dried venison, and we in turn some needles and thread to his wife, and then set out on our return down the Susquehanna.

INDIAN CONFERENCES.

After the defeat of Braddock the Indians became very troublesome and made frequent attacks on the settlements. In the latter part of October, 1755, Andrew Montour, the half-breed interpreter, and Monagatootha, an Indian of some prominence, were sent for by the Delawares to visit them at the Great Island. They started up the river accompanied by three other Indians. On reaching the Island they found six Delawares and four Shawanese, who informed them that overtures had been made them by the French; that large bodies of French and Indians had crossed the Allegheny Mountains for the purpose of murdering and scalping the settlers. It was the intention of the French to overrun this portion of the country and erect fortifications at various points, and make Shamokin (now Sunbury) their headquarters.

In November following the authorities learned that two messengers had recently reached the Great Island from the Ohio, on a mission from the French to estrange the friendly Indians, if possible. When these red messengers arrived they found a white man at the Island, who was visiting the Indians. They were very much enraged on finding him there, and insisted on killing him, but the Great Island Indians would not permit him to be harmed, stating that they were living on terms of amity with the whites.

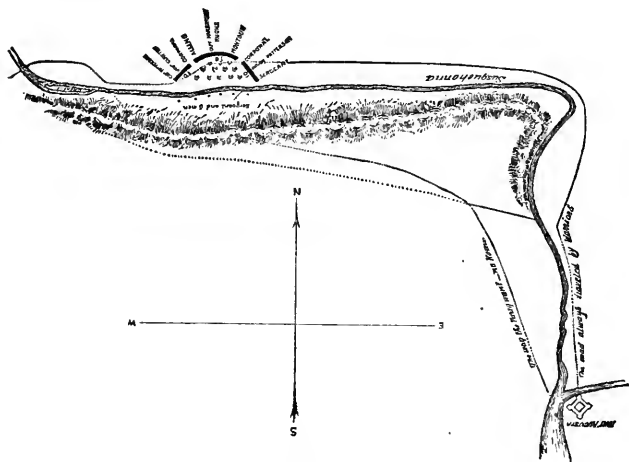
Soon after this the erection of Fort Augusta was commenced at Shamokin, which became a menace to the hostile tribes, and their abettors, and held them in abeyance for a short time.

HAMBRIGHT'S EXPEDITION.

But the Great Island and the contiguous villages became such an important point for the concentration of marauding parties, that the military authorities were forced to devise some plan to dislodge them. On the 8th November, 1756, Colonel Clapham, who commanded at Fort Augusta, informed Governor Denny that there was an Indian town of ten families near the Great Island, from whence marauding parties came to lie in ambush and pick off sentinels at the fort, and he had determined to send an armed force to destroy the town. The command of this secret expedition was entrusted to Captain Hambright, a faithful, competent and vigilant officer. His force consisted of two sergeants, two corporals and thirty-eight men. He was instructed to "attack, burn and destroy the town or towns," and if any Indians were found he was "to kill, scalp, and capture as many" as he could. But if there were no Indians at the towns, he was instructed not to disturb anything, so that the enemy would not know he had been there.

The only record of the expedition known to exist is a rough pen draft, given below, which was found among some old papers at the State Capitol. The report which Captain Hambright doubtless made has been lost. The diagram shows the line of his march from Fort Augusta, the location of the town just east of the Great Island, and how his men were stationed when he surrounded it in the night. At this point in the valley the river runs due east and west for thirty-five miles on the north side of Bald Eagle range of mountains. He emerged from the mountains through a gap or opening, through which a small stream flows, opposite the town. The other dotted lines are Indian paths, and

the enlargement of the river west of the town is where the Island is located.



CAPTAIN HAMBRIGHT'S MARCH.

In October, 1763, a portion of the force with Col. John Armstrong, in the Kittanning expedition, was instructed to return by the great Indian path which led to what is now Clearfield, and descend the river. It consisted of three hundred men. This force made a successful march, and the records inform us that among the towns destroyed was "a large number of wigwams at Munseytown and on the Great Island." The officers also reported having destroyed "about two hundred acres of corn which they found on the flats at various points along the river." Munseytown was situated on the main land, a short distance west of the Great Island, and was an Indian village of some note. It never was rebuilt after Colonel Armstrong's force destroyed it; neither was the village east of the Island.

THE CHIEF WANTS TO SELL.

For several years after these military movements the Colonial Records are silent regarding the Great Island.

The Indians, after the destruction of their towns, ceased to congregate there in large numbers. All the land west of Lycoming Creek, and north of the river, including the Island, belonged to the Indians; and it remained in their possession until it was purchased at the treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1784. South of the river the land belonged to the Province of Pennsylvania, having been acquired at the treaty of 1768. In this year Shawana Ben, a friendly Indian, and Ne-wah-lee-ka, a Muncy chief of some prominence, were living on the Island. It was called *Mecheek-Menatey* by the Delaware Indians, which meant Great Island in their language.

In January, 1768, the records inform us, Ne-wah-lee-ka sent Billy Champion to Philadelphia to complain to Governor John Penn that five men had lately been marking and surveying land on the forks of the Susquehanna not yet purchased from the Indians. The chief also appeared with some forty of his followers at a conference being held with the Six Nations at Fort Augusta, in August, 1769. But the Six Nations did not allow them to come into the conference, showing that they still considered the Delawares their subjects.

Shawana Ben, chief of the remnant of the Shawanese, was, in 1768, also living at the Great Island, as he replied to a letter informing him of the murder of a number of his relatives on Middle Creek. The letter is very peculiar, and may be seen in Vol. IX., p. 480, Colonial Records.

As late as the 24th of September, 1771, Shawana Ben and Ne-wah-lee-ka appeared before Governor Hamilton and Council in Philadelphia, and informed them they wished to remove from the Great Island and desired to sell it. The Governor replied:

We desire that you will continue on this Island, and consult your uncles, the Six Nations, when you find any inclination to remove. They will give you good advice. You know, brethren of the Big Island, that neither you

or we can agree to buy or sell lands, or do anything in that matter without your uncles, the Six Nations, are present in Council, and they give their full consent to it.

As will hereafter appear, Ne-wah-lee-ka was living on the Island in 1773, when Bishop Ettewein and his company of Moravians stopped there on their way to the Ohio country.

WILLIAM DUNN APPEARS.

When the surveyors appeared in the spring of 1769 to lay off the Allison* tract, they were accompanied by a young man named William Dunn, whose duty it was to provide game and look after their camp. He carried a handsome silver-mounted rifle and equipments to correspond. The tradition is that Ne-wah-lee-ka became acquainted with Dunn, and taking a liking to his rifle, proposed to trade his Island for it, a hatchet and a keg of whiskey. Dunn, who was a shrewd Irishman, at once saw that there was a great bargain in the offer and agreed to exchange. The chief was delighted and when he received the keg of "fire water," he immediately proceeded to celebrate in due form, and kept it up until the keg was emptied, but after the exhilarating effects of the liquor had passed off and he came to realize what he had done, it is said that he came to Dunn and proposed that he should trade back the Island to him. This he refused to do, of course, when Ne-wah-lee-ka was very much chagrined and cast down over his folly.

So much for the tradition that has been handed down. Whether there is any truth in it or not cannot now be determined. But in the light of well verified historical facts,

* Thomas and John Penn, proprietaries and governors of the Province of Pennsylvania, under date of February 4, 1769, granted the application of Dr. Francis Allison for 1,500 acres of land on the point lying between Bald Eagle Creek and the south side of the river, opposite the Great Island. It was this tract Dunn and his party came to survey. Allison afterwards sold the land to John Fleming, and he was living on it when Rev. Fithian visited him in 1775. It embraced a portion of the present city of Lock Haven. Fleming died in 1777 and the land was divided among his children.

it must be admitted that its truth is doubtful. If the chief had sold the Island to Dunn, why should he importune the Governor to buy it in 1771? And he appears to have been living there in 1773. That he soon after followed the Moravians to Ohio is evident, for in 1775 we find him at Zeisberger's town of Schönbrun, in the valley of the Tuscarawas; and by 1776 he had renounced his Moravian faith, and on account of too much indulgence in whiskey, had become a "bad Indian," and made much trouble in the settlement. Finally he left the Moravians and went with his tribe into the valley of the Wallhonding, a few miles further west, where he probably died.

FIRST SURVEY.

It is probable that Dunn, like other settlers on the Indian land, squatted on the Great Island and made an improvement in 1770, which gave him a pre-emption right, which was respected. In 1784, when the State purchased the land from the Six Nations, he made application for the Island in due form, obtained a warrant, and in time was granted a patent by the State, upon payment of the amount required. Following is a copy of the order of survey:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, ss:

WHEREAS, William Dunn of the County of ——— hath requested to take up three hundred Acres of land, including his improvement made about the year 1770 in the great Island in the West branch of Susquehanna, in the County of Northumberland, for which he agrees to pay immediately into the Office of the Receiver General for the use of this State, at the Rate of Thirty Pounds per Hundred Acres, in Gold, Silver, Paper Money of this State, or Certificates agreeable to Acts of Assembly, passed the First Day of April and 21st day of December, 1784.

THESE are therefore to authorize and require you to Survey or cause to be Surveyed unto the said William Dunn at the place aforesaid, according to the Method of Townships appointed, the said Quantity of Acres, if not already surveyed or appropriated, and to make Return thereof into the Secretary's Office in order for Confirmation, for which this shall be your Warrant.

IN WITNESS whereof, the Honorable Charles Biddle, Esquire, Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council, hath hereunto set his Hand and

caused the less Seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed the Thirteenth Day of October in the year 1785.

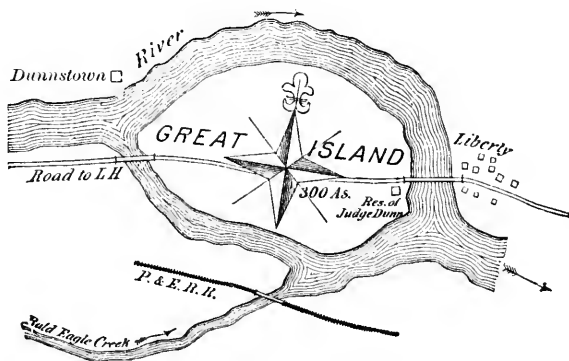
To JOHN LUKENS, Esq., Surveyor General.

Endorsed: 1785, Oct. 13th, Northumberland, 300 acres.

William Dunn, Returned &c., 28 Jan'y, 1796.

The first draft of the Island, made in 1785, and now on file in the Land Office, shows that it was shaped very differently from what it is to-day. The cut printed herewith was made about twenty years ago, and even in that length of time the form has slightly changed. This is caused by the action of the water during great floods.

The first survey was made by Thomas Tucker, a deputy, October 15, 1785, and it was certified by John Lukens, Surveyor General. The contents were returned at $267\frac{1}{2}$ acres, with the usual allowance of six per cent. for roads, &c. The records now show the famous Island to be divided as follows: Estate of William Dunn, second in descent from the original owner, 180 acres; R. W. McCormick, 65; Henry McCormick, 45; R. H. Dorey, 15. Total, 325 acres, or over 57 acres more than were originally returned, which shows the liberality, or carelessness, of the early surveyors. The Island is connected with the main land by two fine iron bridges, over which a public highway passes.



MAP OF THE GREAT ISLAND.

Having settled on the Island, it is natural to suppose that one of the first things William Dunn did was to erect a cabin for a dwelling place. That cabin very likely stood near the point on the map marked "residence of Judge Dunn," because the old homestead stood near there when it was torn down many years ago. A handsome modern frame house now occupies the site.

SQUATTERS WARNED.

Soon after locating on the Island, other settlers came and squatted on the fine land lying east of him. Among those who had cabins, shown by the surveys of 1785, were Widow McKinney, Captain Procter, Barney Bonner, John McCormick, James Alexander, and several others. Peter Grove, the renowned Indian fighter, had two tracts some distance north of the Island. Dunn also secured a tract of 312 acres, bordering on the river, and fronting the upper part of the Island on the north side.

The appearance of these settlers on lands not purchased by the Province caused much dissatisfaction among the Indians and they remonstrated to the Governor. Finally their complaints became so numerous that on the 20th of September, 1773, John Penn issued a proclamation, noted for its severity, warning these settlers to leave forthwith. He called their attention to the law forbidding settlements on Indian lands, and informed them that the penalty on conviction was that every offender should pay a fine "of £500, and suffer twelve months' imprisonment without bail, and shall moreover find surety for good behavior during the space of twelve months from and after the expiration of the term of imprisonment," and he commanded every person living on these lands to "evacuate their illegal settlements, and to depart and remove themselves from the said lands without delay, on pain of being prosecuted with the utmost rigors of the law." And to make the proclamation more effective, the

Governor commanded "all magistrates, sheriffs and peace officers to carry into strict execution the act," to which he had called attention.

William Dunn was one of the offenders referred to in the proclamation, but notwithstanding it ended with the words, "God save the King," he, like all the other settlers, seems to have been undeterred by the terror of the law and remained on his Island. It nowhere appears in the records of the time that any attention was paid to the proclamation, or that any of the offenders were arrested. It is true they were squatters on forbidden ground, living outside the limits of the Province, and therefore not entitled to the protection of its laws; but as the Indians were gradually being forced towards the west, and it was merely a question of time when the land would come into the possession of the State, they were willing to take all risks, that they might be on hand as pre-emption claimants when that time should come. And so it turned out. But this risk subjected the squatters to many inconveniences. They had no laws for their government or protection. In a word, they were outlaws.

FAIR PLAY SYSTEM.

But these sturdy Scotch-Irish pioneers were equal to the situation. They organized a government of their own called the Fair Play system, by the appointment of three commissioners annually, who sat as a court to hear complaints, settle disputes, and see that all had fair play. Nowhere else in the history of this country does it appear that a similar condition ever existed, or that local laws, without the sanction of a legislature, were tacitly agreed to and better administered. Claimants of land were protected from the encroachments of strangers, and the rights of all were guarded with a fidelity and fairness that may challenge our legal courts of higher degree. The Fair Play system existed until 1784, a period of fully ten years. It had the

countenance and support of William Dunn, and the court frequently held its sessions at Chatham's Run, only a short distance east of the Island.

The principles of Fair Play, as they were understood at that time, are best illustrated by an anecdote which has been preserved. Once when Chief Justice McKean was holding court at Williamsport for the trial of a land case, he inquired, partly from curiosity and partly in reference to the case before him, of a shrewd Irishman, named Peter Rodey, if he could tell him what the provisions of the Fair Play code were. Peter's memory did not exactly serve him as to details, and he could only convey an idea of them by comparison, so, scratching his head, he answered:

"All I can say is, that since your Honor's coorts have come among us, *fair play* has entirely ceased, and law has taken its place."

This sharp rejoinder caused a good deal of merriment in court, and so discomfited the Judge that he was not disposed to ask any more questions reflecting on the tribunal to which Peter had no doubt once belonged.

By 1774 settlers had become quite numerous on the Indian land as far down the river as Lycoming Creek, a distance of fifteen miles east of the Island, whilst there were a number on the south side of the river, which was the dividing line of the Province. The south-siders had the protection of the Provincial laws; the north-siders, although neighbors, had to depend on their own.

THE MORAVIANS AGAIN.

The next event of importance at the Island was the appearance of a great body of Moravians, under the guidance of Bishop Ettwein, on their way to Ohio. They came from Friedenshutzen, on the North Branch, and numbered over two hundred souls. On the 24th of June, 1772, says Bishop Ettwein in his journal:

We encamped above Larry's Creek. Here Ne-wah-lee ka's wife visited our Brother Joseph. She stated that her husband was ill; otherwise both with their family would have emigrated with us to the West. The old chief told Brother John that as soon as possible he would take the step, as he was in earnest to be converted.

From this it appears that Ne-wah-lee-ka was still living on, or about, the Great Island, and that he had not yet joined the Moravians. Dunn, doubtless, was there at the same time, engaged in pushing his improvement. Bishop Ettwein thus describes their arrival at the Island:

The next day (27th), however, on arriving at Mr. Campbell's,* at the upper end of the Island, where we met Mr. Anderson, they dissuaded us from attempting to embark a canoe, stating the water to be too shallow for navigation. Hereupon the canoes and sundry utensils were sold, viz.: The four windows for our church, one box of glass, one keg of nails, and another filled with iron we left in trust, as it was impossible to transport them, and yet every one was loth to part with what was his.

Sunday, June 28, 1772. Yesterday I promised, at their request, to preach to the white settlers from the Bald Eagle Creek, and the south shore of the West Branch, to whom I proclaimed the counsels of God respecting their salvation. As no ordained minister of the Gospel was as yet settled in the neighborhood, I was requested to baptize, and accordingly I administered the sacraments to the new born daughter of a Frenchman, Fourney by name, calling her Conigunda, and to the son of a Catholic, Antoine White, whom I named John.

On the 29th, the good Bishop informs us, they set out from the Island on their journey, it being his 52d birthday. Some of their party and a few sick remained behind. Their route lay up the valley to Beech Creek and over the mountains by the Indian path to Chin-gle-ca-mouche (Clearfield), an Indian village of some importance, where the French contemplated building a fort in 1756, and actually did some work.

*Cleary Campbell, the first settler on what is now the site of the city of Lock Haven. When the surveyors came to lay out the "officers tracts," on Bald Eagle Creek, in the early part of 1769, they found him with his family living in a cabin. He was in the advance of the tide of emigration, but being a squatter, he was forced to leave, and finally took up his residence on the mountain near Howard, where he died in 1809.

On the 4th of July, while entering the gloom of the mountain wilderness, not far from the present borough of Beech Creek, he makes this entry in his journal :

Brother Roth was summoned to Great Island by an express. Thither Joshua [an Indian] had returned with twelve men to fetch up his sick friend; and when he arrived there she was near her end, which she attained with release from all suffering on the evening of the 5th instant, just an hour prior to Roth's arrival. On the 6th he buried her. She was a daughter of Jo. Peepe's wife [Indian], baptized May 6, 1770, at Friedenshutzen by Brother Schnick, married there to Brother Mark and bore him two children—one son, and a daughter born twelve days ago, prematurely, on the West Branch.

He speaks of a horse straying away, which he had purchased on the Great Island, but from whom he does not say. After much searching and being badly frightened by treading on a rattlesnake, he finally found the horse. He also tells us of a crippled Indian boy, ten or eleven years old, whom his mother had carried on her back in a basket all the way, dying and being buried by the wayside. "I cut his name into a tree that overshadowed his lonely grave and then moved on." The place of burial is on Moravian Run, Clearfield County, and the spot is pointed out to this day.*

In the summer of 1774, the celebrated Moravian and historian, John Heckewelder, and a party of Indians, traveling from the valley of the Tuscarawas, Ohio, to Bethlehem, stopped at the Great Island. They came over the path leading by Clearfield.

VISIT OF REV. FITHIAN.

The next visitor of note to the settlement on and around the Great Island was the Rev. Philip Vickers Fithian, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, who was making a missionary tour through the West Branch Valley in the summer of 1775. He reached the settlement July 25th,

*After many delays and enduring great hardships, the party reached their destination on the Ohio, August 5, 1772. The journal in full may be found in the History of the West Branch Valley, pp. 405-418.

and enters in his journal: "On I rode over a part of the river onto the Great Island, and thence over the other branch to Esquire Fleming's." He tarried several days and had a delightful time visiting Fleming's, Reed's and other families. The description he gives of the land, and the fair young ladies he met, is very interesting and may be found in full in the History of the West Branch Valley. He made this entry in his journal:

The 'Squire [Fleming] tells me that I am the first "orderly" preacher, or that has come by appointment, ever to this settlement. Mr. Page, a church clergyman, was here all last month. Mr. Hoge, of Virginia, was once here to view some land, but none ever by appointment of Synod or Presbytery. * * * Sunday, July 30.—I rose early and walked, with a Bible and my sermon, down the bank of the river. The morning is cool and very clear. At eleven I began service. We crossed over to the Indian land, and held worship on the bank of the river opposite the Great Island* about a mile and a half below 'Squire Fleming's. There were present about one hundred and forty. I stood at the root of a great tree, the people sitting in the bushes and green grass around me. They gave good attention. I had the eyes of all upon me. I spoke with some force and pretty loud. I recommended to them earnestly the religious observance of God's Sabbath in this remote place, where they seldom have the Gospel preached, that they should attend with carefulness and reverence upon it.

The next day the missionary continued his journey up the Bald Eagle Valley. His visit was a memorable one, as it was at a time when the country was on the eve of being plunged into war. As he had such a large congregation, the entire settlement must have turned out to hear him. Where he preached can doubtless be pointed out yet, but the "great tree" under which he stood has long since disappeared. The scene that balmy Sunday morning was one

*The Great Island Presbyterian Church, Lock Haven, was the first church organized in the vicinity of the Great Island, from which it derives its name. This was about 1790. Rev. Kinkaid preached here in 1778. After being driven away by the Indians he did not return. Rev. Johnston preached here in 1785. Revs. Nathan Kerr and Joshua Hart were here in 1790, and under their auspices the church was probably founded. Rev. Isaac Grier came in 1794.

worthy the pencil of a great artist. At that point the settlement was the greatest. What wondrous changes have been wrought in one hundred and nineteen years!

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

Time rolled on and war clouds lowered on the horizon. The people demanded liberty and freedom from British taxation without representation. In less than a year after Fithian's departure that memorable meeting of settlers was held on the Pine Creek plains, when they openly declared in favor of Independence—memorable from the fact that on the same day Independence was declared by the Congress in session at Philadelphia. More than two hundred miles intervened between the two, and neither one knew of the other's intention. Strange coincidence. The few names of those taking part in the Pine Creek declaration that have been preserved show them to have been Scotch-Irish. The name of William Dunn does not appear among them, as he lived some miles away, but no doubt they had his sympathy, for he too was of that stalwart race, which bore such a conspicuous part in the tremendous struggle for liberty which followed. The army of the Revolution was strengthened by many recruits from among the squatters on the Indian lands. And the patriotism they thus displayed did much towards securing their pre-emption warrants when the land came into market. Their services, freely and patriotically given, could not with consistency be ignored when the land was thrown open to settlers.

As the war progressed the outlook on the frontier became more serious. The savages, incited by the English, took up the hatchet against the settlers and made frequent attacks. Militia had to be called out to protect the frontier, and a company was stationed for some time near the Great Island, at Reed's stockaded house on the Lock Haven side of the river. In May, 1778, Colonel Hunter informed the

President of the Executive Council at Philadelphia that he had ordered the settlers "that lived near the Great Island to preserve shad and barrel them up for the use of the militia that will be stationed there this summer." They were not needed. The Big Runaway was precipitated that summer. A panic seized the inhabitants, caused by fear of the approaching enemy; they abandoned their homes and fled pell-mell down the river to Fort Augusta and other points for safety. The Indians followed and laid waste the abandoned homes and improvements by fire, leaving a scene of desolation behind them.

WHO WAS WILLIAM DUNN?

When he appeared with the surveyors early in 1769 it is said that he came from York County. This is doubtless true, for many of the early settlers came from that and Cumberland County. William Dunn, according to family tradition, was born in the North of Ireland and came to this country with the Scotch-Irish emigration when he was about twenty-one years of age. The date of his birth is unknown. He could not have tarried long in York County, for a diligent search of the early assessments failed to reveal his name. The tradition is that his first wife was Sallie McKinstry,* whom he married in Ireland, and she accompanied him to this country. But her age and date of death are unknown. She probably died about the close of the Revolution, leaving several grown up children.

IN THE REVOLUTION.

When the Revolution was impending and the Indians became troublesome on the frontier, the inhabitants at once took steps for their defense. Committees of Safety were formed. The records show that William Dunn served as a member of the committee for Bald Eagle Township from

*James McKinstry was assessed in East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County, in 1762. Probably he was a brother.

February 8, 1776, to April 17, 1776, although he was not a citizen. Patriotism was regarded by him as paramount to all other considerations. And in Capt. Cookson Long's company of the second battalion, Northumberland militia, commanded by Col. James Potter, the names of William and James* Dunn appear as privates. This was certified by Col. James Murray, December 3, 1776. John Dunn was a member of Capt. Thomas Robinson's company, as it stood at Ticonderoga, November 26, 1776. See Pennsylvania in the Revolution, Vol. I., p. 124.

When the Great Runaway occurred in 1778, and the valley was abandoned by all the white settlers, Dunn took his family and fled to York. After seeing that they were in a place of safety, he entered the Revolutionary army and was present at the battles of Germantown and Trenton. There is a tradition that while he was serving as a soldier he was greatly surprised one day at seeing his team and wagon driven into the camp. After the affair at Trenton the military authorities pressed all teams into the service that were available. Dunn had probably taken his team to York when he fled in the Big Runaway, and there it was found and pressed into service. As he thought a great deal of his horses, he at once asked permission to drive them, and much to his gratification he was detailed as a teamster and had charge of his own team while in the service. When he was discharged from the service is unknown, but it is probable that he returned to the Great Island before the close of the war in 1783, and at once went to work to renew his improvements, which had been destroyed by the savages, and to take steps to secure a warrant for the land. This, it has been shown, he obtained as soon as the land came into market.

*James and John Dunn were probably brothers of William, as it is not likely that his sons, John and James, were old enough to enter the military service.

The assessment book of Pine Creek Township for 1786, which had been formed from Bald Eagle, and included Great Island, shows the names of William and James Dunn. And the assessment of Pine Creek Township for 1790 shows among other names the following: "William Dunn, 460 acres, still house, and one slave; William J. Dunn, 40 acres; John Dunn, 50 acres, tavern-keeper; James Dunn."

His second wife, who signed all his conveyances of lots and lands, was named Margaret. That he married her before 1786 is evident, for her name appears on the deeds of transfer for that year. That she died before him is probable, for he makes no provision for her in his will.

"DUNNSTOWN," OR "DUNNSBURGH."

That William Dunn was a shrewd, clear-headed and enterprising man is shown by his real estate transactions. On his tract of 312 acres on the main land, opposite the head of the Island, he laid out a town, which he called "Dunns-town," or "Dunnsburgh," for it is written both ways in his deeds of transfer. His sagacity is shown in this effort to found a town long before Jaysburg, Newberry, Williamsport or Jersey Shore were thought of. Just when he conceived the idea is unknown, but it must have been soon after he got his warrant for the land, in 1785, for on the 5th of December, 1786, he and his wife Margaret conveyed Lot No. 17, in "Dunnsburg," to Edward Lynch, of Philadelphia, in consideration of £6. This appears to have been the first sale. Deed Book A, p. 329, Williamsport.

December 12, 1786, they convey Lot No. 12 to John Canan, of Bedford County. It is described as being situated on Water Street, between Market and Arch streets. It had a front of 60 feet and was 220 feet deep, running northerly to an alley of 30 feet, "as by the general plan of said Dunnsburg will at large appear." The consideration was £3, with a rental of \$1.00 per annum for twenty years, when it should

cease. It was to be paid in the form "of one Spanish coined fine silver milled dollar of the weight of 17 penny-weights and 6 grains, on the first of May yearly, first payment to be made on the 1st of May, 1788." At the end of twenty years the rental was to cease. He was also enjoined from establishing a ferry. Canan paid the \$20 down and was released. See Deed Book C, p. 328, Williamsport.

Notwithstanding Dunn frequently speaks of the "plan" of the town when conveying lots, it does not appear on record at either Williamsport or Sunbury. As John Canan was a famous surveyor in his time, it is probable that he laid out the town, plotted the "plan," and purchased the second lot. The beginning of "Dunnsburgh," therefore, would seem to date back to December, 1786, or one hundred and eight years ago.

OTHER TRANSFERS.

Another curious deed is found on record at Sunbury (Deed Book D, p. 240), in which, under date of February 12, 1788, he conveys to John Sonnel "a certain lot situated in 'Dunnsburgh,' Northumberland County, containing 1,405 square yards and five-ninths of a yard, bounded on the east 57½ feet by Arch Street, on the north by Lot No. 62, on the west by Buckley's Alley, on the south by Lot No. 64, the said lot being 57½ feet by 220 feet, and being Lot No. 63, being a part of a tract of land granted to William Dunn by patent from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, dated December 4, 1786, enrolled in Patent Book No. 8, p. 100."

Other conveyances of lots and lands, recorded at Williamsport, are as follows: September 4, 1790, (Deed Book D, p. 383,) Lot No. 66, to James Birteh, in consideration of £6; April 12, 1796, lot containing three acres, to James Hawk, "boatman," for £30. It is described as adjoining "Dunnsburgh," (Deed Book A, p. 134,) bounded east by

land of Dunn, south by land of John Emmintrissor and John Pfoutz, west by Walnut Street, and north by land of Dunn.

December 13, 1790, he conveys to Hugh Andrews, in consideration of £3, a lot in "Dunnsburgh," bounded as follows: "On the east by Walnut Street, north by Second, west by Spring Alley, and south by Lot No. 298, containing in front on Walnut Street, 57½ feet, thence extending back 237 feet to Spring Alley, being Lot No. 297." See Deed Book A, p. 166, Lycoming County. From the numbers of lots referred to it is evident that the plot of Dunns-town was about as large as the original plan of Williamsport, which consisted of 302 lots.

May 10, 1797, (Deed Book D, p. 150,) in consideration of £45, he conveys to Martin Uptegraff, his son-in-law, thirty acres half a mile from "Dunnsburg," bounded on the east by Peter Grove. On September 25, 1797, he conveyed the "Munsey Town tract," containing 226 acres, to Johnston Buckley, also his son-in-law, for £612. April 1, 1803, Buckley and his wife Merab appear to have sold this land to Wendle Bartholomew and Adam Smith for £2,100.

John White, (June 17, 1803,) of Pine Creek, purchased Lot No. 24 for \$20. John Canan also bought No. 40 for \$20. The ferry was reserved.

On the 7th of April, 1804, (Deed Book E, p. 258,) he sold his Dunnstown tract (312 acres) to William and John Fishbaugh, Adam Richel and John Streveigh, all of Centre County, for £1,250. The next and last sale by William Dunn, which appears of record, (Deed Book E, p. 221,) was a tract of fifty acres off the Great Island, June 14, 1804, to George Smith for £1,000. His wife Margaret signed this deed, showing that she was living at that time.

There are a number of other transfers on record between 1788 and 1797, but it is not deemed necessary to refer to them, as enough has been given to fix the date of the founding of Dunnstown in the autumn or winter of 1786. It is

therefore the oldest laid out and regularly plotted town in the West Branch Valley, excepting Northumberland and Lewisburg*—older than Milton, Muncy, Williamsport or Jersey Shore, and forty-seven years older than Lock Haven, which was laid out in 1833 by the eccentric Jerry Church, but has long since overshadowed Dunnstown.

RIVER SURVEYORS.

The latter part of May, 1790, John Adlum, Timothy Matlack, and Samuel Maclay, who were making a survey of the river, by order of the Supreme Executive Council, for the purpose of ascertaining if water communication could be established with Lake Erie, arrived at the Island. Samuel Maclay, in his private journal, thus speaks of the visit:

Tuesday, May 25th.—The morning threatens rain; we went and breakfasted with Mrs. Dunn. Looked at several horses but could not buy any that we thought exactly suited our purpose; we at length purchased three, and left Gresham and Hicks, and Matthew Gray [members of the party] to get them shod, and prepared to start with the boat.

ASPIRED TO BE A COUNTY SEAT.

William Dunn† evidently was prosperous and active towards the close of the century, although well advanced in years. His town, however, did not grow rapidly, but it was beginning to attract attention and was looked upon as a

*Northumberland was laid out in 1772; Lewisburg, 1785; Milton, 1792; Muncy, 1797; Williamsport, 1795, and Jersey Shore, 1800. Muncy as a settlement, however, is older than Dunnstown.

†When Steuben County, New York, was organized in March, 1796, William Dunn was appointed the first Sheriff and lived for some years at Bath. He, too, claimed to be from York, and came with Charles Williamson when he built his famous road through Lycoming County. He was probably a nephew of William Dunn of the Great Island. After living in Bath several years he located at Elmira in 1799 and kept an inn, where he died February 17, 1805, aged forty years. A grandson, Charles W. Dunn, whose father was the first white child born at Bath, now lives at Brimfield, Noble County, Indiana, aged 73 years. His grandfather, Sheriff William Dunn, had a brother named Thomas, who was a prominent physician in Philadelphia.

place of some note. When the commissioners came to select a seat for the new county of Lycoming, which was created by act of Assembly, signed April 13, 1795, Dunns-town was a claimant for the honor. At that time Lycoming County extended to the Allegheny River, and Dunn thought it would be better to locate the capital further west than Williamsport, therefore he offered a lot in Dunnstown for the public buildings, and for years afterward it was known as the "Court House Lot." A return of taxable inhabitants of Pine Creek Township, made October 30, 1795,—the first after Lycoming was organized,—shows the following: "Dunn, William, Sr.; Dunn, William, Jr.; Dunn, James; Dunn, John, Sr., and Dunn, John, Jr."

HIS FAMILY.

Great difficulty has been encountered in the collection of facts relating to the family of William Dunn, on account of his descendants being so widely scattered and the loss of records. His will, which is on record at Williamsport, gives the names of his children, but the dates of their births, with the exception of two or three, can only be guessed by comparison with events. Neither is it positively known how many belonged to the first wife, but it is probable that all belonged to her but three. The issue therefore is arranged as follows:

i. *Esther*, b. about 1763; m. ——— Paiding; descendants supposed to be living in Buffalo.

ii. *James*, b. about 1765.

According to the history of Crawford County he settled at Meadville in 1794, and had seven sons in the war of 1812. He served as a Justice of the Peace for some time. Descendants still live at Meadville.

In the *Annals of Buffalo Valley* (p. 367) mention is made of a James Dunn who d. in Union County, October 14, 1849, aged 95. That would make him b. in 1754.

Probably he was a brother or nephew of William Dunn. Elizabeth Dunn, probably his wife, d. at the same place in June, 1861.

iii. *Rebecca*, b. about 1767; m. Samuel McFadden; descendants living at Meadville, Pa.

iv. *Mary*, b. about 1769; m. Martin Uptegrove.

v. *Merab*, b. 1771; m. Johnston Buckley.

After disposing of their land near Dunnstown, they settled on Loyalsock, about four miles north of Montoursville, where Mr. Buckley purchased over 300 acres of fine bottom land. They had three sons, John, William and Clemson, and a daughter named Beulah. In his will, dated April 27, 1830, Mr. Buckley makes ample provision for his "beloved wife Merab," and in addition set apart \$20 per annum for her as "expense money." His three sons were directed to maintain their mother as long as she lived, and in case of failure "the whole of his landed estate" was bound for the same. Besides other bequests, Beulah was left \$700. Each of the sons was left a farm. The will was filed for probate June 12, 1830, showing that he d. a few days before that date. Washington Dunn and William Crawford were named as his executors. Merab d. January 4, 1834, aged 62 years, 4 months and 17 days, and was buried on a high knoll, on the mansion house estate, overlooking Loyalsock Creek. Where they lived was long known as "Buckley's," but a hamlet near by is now called Farragut. John made his will June 16, 1838, and d. December 24, 1838, aged 48. Clemson d. May 20, 1865, aged 63 years, 11 months and 9 days. William d. a few years ago near Muncy. Beulah, b. March 7, 1807, m. George Shafer, and d. March 15, 1887, and is buried by the side of her mother and brothers, John and Clemson.

vi. *John*, b. about 1775; d. 1846.

He m. Ann Hawkins, of Hagerstown, Md., at Meadville, in 1805. She was sixteen and he was at least ten years

older. There they lived for thirty years. He served in the war of 1812. About 1835 he moved with his family to Rockford, Illinois, where he d. October 2, 1846. His wife then carried on the farm until her death in 1869. Their twelve children, all b. at Meadville, were named as follows : 1. Catherine, d. in infancy. 2. Susan, m. William Peters. 3. John P., m. Jane Nash, no issue. 4. James Anson, graduated from Yale March 5, 1835; became an army surgeon and d. in Texas unmarried. 5-6. George Washington, d. in infancy, and Benjamin Franklin, twins. 7. Sarah, m. Calvin Hayward. 8. Eliza, m. David Dunham. 9. Jane, m. James Smart. 10. Rebecca McFadden, m. Charles Metcalf. 11. Electa, m. Charles Ensworth. 12. William McFadden. Was reared in the Presbyterian faith; was Assistant City Collector of Chicago in 1859, and was twice elected Street Commissioner. He m. at Chicago, Eveline Guthrie, grand-daughter of the celebrated chemist, Dr. Samuel Guthrie, discoverer of chloroform. Captain Dunn was drowned at Natchez, Mississippi, November 1, 1864, while in the service of the government during the rebellion, leaving four children, viz.: Sybil L., Harriet N., Eveline G., and William H. He is married and has four children. These four great-grand-children of William Dunn now reside in Chicago, and William, the only son, holds a responsible position in the post-office in that city.

William Dunn married, secondly, Mrs. Margaret Harrison, about 1783, who, it appears by his will, had a daughter named Jane. Issue by the second marriage :

vii. *Margaret*, b. about 1784; m. ——— Robertson.

viii. *Washington*, b. January 20, 1786; d. January 13, 1848.

He m. Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph and Magdalene Musser, of Northumberland County, December 13, 1810, Rev. Thomas Hood performing the ceremony. His wife, b. July 26, 1784, d. January 27, 1864. Washington Dunn

was an active business man and farmer, and was made sole executor of his father's will; and June 1, 1810, he sold the Dunnstown tract (Deed Book M, p. 246, Williamsport,) to Martin Uptegrove for \$2,466.67. During the canal riots of 1833 he was serving as a Justice of the Peace, and the arrested rioters were committed by him. As he died intestate, his eldest son, William, was appointed administrator and settled the estate. Washington Dunn and wife had issue: 1. William, b. December 1, 1811; d. September 7, 1877, suddenly, of paralysis, while on a visit to Lock Haven. William Dunn was a man of fine attainments and stood high in the community. February 13, 1834, he married Miss Elizabeth Barker, who survives him. Since his death she has resided in the old homestead on the Island and carried on the farm. And although she is at this writing (March, 1894) in her 84th year, she is one of the brightest and most interesting ladies of her age to be met with. William Dunn was prominent as a Democrat, and was twice nominated and elected to the Legislature (1849-50), and he was twice a candidate for Congress, but failed in securing the district nomination. In 1871 he was elected an Associate Judge for Clinton County and served his term. His death was greatly regretted and caused much sorrow. Farming was his occupation, and his Island farm, which he inherited from his father, was one of the finest in the county. He left one son, Washington, b. February 13, 1834. At the time of his father's death he was absent in the Northwest, being a contractor on the Northern Pacific Railroad, but arrived home in time to attend the funeral. He survived his father but a few years. 2. Joseph, b. June 2, 1813; d. February 12, 1844. 3. James, b. July 28, 1815; d. December 15, 1839. 4. Margaret, b. March 26, 1818; m. Benjamin Fredericks. Resides in Lock Haven. 5. Mary, b. June 22, 1821; m. Tench C. Kintzing. Resides in Lock Haven. 6. Elizabeth, b. June 25, 1827; m. Rev. John J.

Pearce, a prominent member of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the M. E. Church, and ex-member (1855-57) of Congress. They reside at Conneaut, Ohio.

ix. William, Jr., b. about 1788; m. Lydia Baird and d. about 1849.

The administration records of Clinton County show that a William Dunn d. in 1855 in Wayne Township, and his wife Sarah, Jacob Dice, and Ezra Simcox, were appointed administrators. Bond \$2,000. Who was he?

WILL OF WILLIAM DUNN.

The will of William Dunn, which is on record at Williamsport, is of value in this connection, because it may revive the recollections of old people now living in the vicinity of the Great Island, as well as descendants, and therefore pave the way towards arriving at something positive in regard to the line of his children. It is as follows:

* * * * * *

First. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Esther Paiding the sum of \$10. I also give and bequeath to my son James Dunn the sum of \$10. I also give unto my son John Dunn the sum of \$4. I also give to my son Washington Dunn all that part of the Great Island which I now own, together with his choice of four horses and four cows, with a desk and a bed and bedding which were his mother's.

I also will that my son Washington Dunn doth pay out of his part or share unto his sister Margaret Robertson's only daughter, the sum of \$266.67 when she arrives at age, providing she lives; but in case she should die my son Washington is not to pay the above mentioned legacy; and likewise to pay Esther Paiding, and James and John Dunn their above mentioned legacies out of his share.

And as to all the rest, residue and remainder of my real and personal estate, goods and chattels of what kind and nature soever, I give and order the same to be sold and the money arising from the above to be equally divided between Rebecca McFadden, Mary Uptegrove, Merab Buckley,

Jane Harrison, and William Dunn, Jr., excepting the goods and furniture which I received with my second wife, the same I give to her daughter, Jane Harrison, above her equal share.

And lastly I do hereby appoint my son Washington Dunn my sole executor of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills by me made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 24th of August, 1805.

(Signed)

WILLIAM DUNN.

Witnesses :

John Fleming.

Amasa West.

The above will was filed for probate April 14, 1806, by Register and Recorder John Kidd, showing that Dunn died sometime in the first half of April, 1806. His place of burial was in the Dunnstown graveyard. Near the stump of a great oak tree is a small tomb-stone with the name, "W. Dunn," cut on it. By his side is another bearing the name of "M. Dunn." No dates are given, but these plain stones are supposed to mark the graves of William and Margaret Dunn. A cherry tree, evidently planted close to his headstone, grew to a considerable size, and the stone became imbedded for several inches in the trunk. The tree has been cut down, but the stump still firmly holds the stone. It is a singular freak of nature.

The account of his executor was presented at the Orphans' Court session for February, 1808, and confirmed. The estate footed up £5,314 12s., and the account showed he had made payments amounting to \$845.75, leaving \$4,468.30 in the executor's hands.

POST-OFFICE ESTABLISHED.

William Dunn lived long enough to see a post-office opened in the town he had founded as early as 1786. The records at Washington show that a post-office was estab-

lished at "Dunnsburg" July 9, 1805, and Francis Fargus appointed postmaster. This was less than a year before the veteran founder died, and nearly three-quarters of a year before Jersey Shore had a similar convenience. Fargus held the office until January 31, 1812. The line of succession, with date of appointment, has been as follows :

James Grier,	-	-	-	January 1, 1813.
John Cartz,	-	-	-	April 1, 1817.
Jared P. Huling,	-	-	-	July 1, 1829.
William White,	-	-	-	June 30, 1834.
E. L. Sweney,	-	-	-	March 31, 1836.
John Orr,	-	-	-	April 1, 1839.
Charles Stewart,	-	-	-	September 10, 1839.
William Quigley,	-	-	-	June 30, 1841.
Robert C. Miller,	-	-	-	January 1, 1842.
Michael Spangler,	-	-	-	August 6, 1844.
Robert C. Miller,	-	-	-	December 21, 1848.
Jacob Myers,	-	-	-	November 7, 1854.

The name of the office at Dunnsburg was changed to Island February 10, 1862, and removed to Liberty, a hamlet on the main land, at the east end of the Island, and Robert C. Miller appointed postmaster; but owing to dissatisfaction, it was brought back to Dunnstown. Here it remained for a short time, but the fight being renewed, it was removed to Liberty again, where it has remained. The line of succession has been as follows :

Miss M. Quigley,	-	-	-	January 30, 1866.
R. H. Quigley, appointed assistant,	-	-	-	January 12, 1885.
R. H. Quigley,	-	-	-	January 31, 1885.
L. D. Chambers,	-	-	-	December 16, 1893.

Miss Quigley held the office nineteen years, and her successor, R. H. Quigley, died in office. The shortest term was that of John Orr, four months and ten days.

ANOTHER CONVEYANCE.

January 30, 1812, William Dunn, 2d, conveyed to Francis Fargus one-third of the tract of 312 acres on which

W. L. MCCORMICK

"Dunnsburg" was located, being that portion lying on the eastern side of the tract. In the deed occurs the following words: "With free privilege of fishing for shad as far up as the whole tract of land called Dunnsburg extends, with free access to the beach for carrying on the same."

Major David McCloskey was the purchaser from the heirs of Francis Fergus of the above named one-third of the tract of 312 acres, consequently his heirs are now owners of the shad fishery at Dunnsburg, where an extensive business at fishing was once done. The construction of dams in the river when the canal was built prevented the shad from ascending, and therefore destroyed what was a great industry in early times.

INDIAN VILLAGES—ANTIQUITIES.

The favorite camping places of the Indians appear to have been on the eastern and western points of the Great Island. The eastern point was opposite the mouth of Bald Eagle Creek, and must have been a pleasant place with its wild and romantic surroundings. Close by, in the river, was a fine fishing ground, known at this day as the "Salmon Hole." That there was a village here is evident. A few years ago, when high water had cut the banks of the Island away, the remains of camp fires could be distinctly seen on the solid bed of clay, upon which the surrounding soil rests. They were many feet below the present surface, and but slightly elevated above the level of the river at low water mark, and their number showed that the village must have been extensive.

The western point or head of the Island has of late years been much eroded and worn away by the action of high water. In Indian times it undoubtedly extended much further up the river, and covered what is now a barren bank of sand. The large Indian village was situated at this point, as the numerous specimens of their workmanship

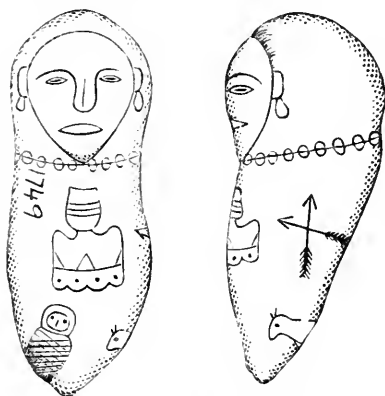
which have been found there prove; and it must have been much frequented on account of its favorable location and the extended and beautiful view it afforded of the river and surrounding country. It is probable that this was the place of residence of Ne-wah-lee-ka, the Munsey chief, who claimed to be the owner of the Island. In its primitive state the Island was probably covered with a heavy growth of timber, with vines and underbrush, as, on the main land, many trees of first growth still fringe its shore.

An Indian town was also located on the main land, on the north side of the Island, and a short distance east of what is now the abandoned guard lock of the canal. One of those immense fire places, peculiar to the Indians, was situated here, traces of which could be distinctly seen a few years ago. During the great flood of 1865 the place was overflowed, and on the subsidence of the water many specimens of Indian handiwork were found, among them being a rare and beautiful talisman or charm. It was in the form of a human face cut in relief on a stone of a red color, and about as large as an ordinary finger nail. It was perforated so as to be suspended from the neck by a cord.

Opposite the Great Island, on the south side, where Beech Creek unites with the river, is an angular extension of the great plain, called "Old Town Point." Abundant evidences of the village which once stood here could be seen a few years ago, where the high water had torn away the bank and exposed the remains of camp fires. Well preserved specimens of charcoal and broken pottery were found here. This was a secluded and wild spot under the shadow of Bald Eagle Mountain and near the fine fishing ground spoken of above. At a little distance from the village was the "Blowing Spring," caused by the emission of gas. It was regarded by the Indians as a great mystery, but has long since been destroyed. Early surveyors noted at this point "Shawana's House," chief of the Shawanese. And it

was probably here that William Dunn first met Ne-wah-lee-ka, when he came with the surveyors to run the lines of the Allison warrant, which embraced this land.

Many fine specimens of Indian antiquities have been found on the Island and on the sites of the villages on the main land. In 1875* Mr. Torrence McCloskey found, on the site of the Indian town on the Island, near the mouth of Bald Eagle Creek, a rare and unique specimen of carving



INDIAN CARVING ON STONE.

on stone. It consisted of a miniature bust figure four inches in length, bearing a rude resemblance to the human form, and covered over its surface are figures known as Indian picture writing. It has a broad and distinct face, with large hoop rings suspended from the ears. The neck is encircled with a string of beads and an Indian pipe of rare pattern is cut on the breast. On the left side are two arrows crossed. Underneath are the head and shoulders of an animal with ears erect, probably intended to represent a fox. On the obverse side of the stone is a figure having the appearance of an Indian papoose in a wicker basket or case. The date, 1749, cut on one side, is of interest. The antiquity of the relic is probably much greater than the date would indicate. It must have been highly prized by the Indians, and handed down from father to son. It is likely that the figures and arrows were the work of a white person, who had penetrated there at that early day and cut the date to commemorate his visit.

* See History of West Branch Valley, page 81.

The rude mill by which the aborigines converted their corn into meal can still be seen lying on the north shore of the Island. It consists of a cup-like depression in a large detached rock, which makes a very fine mortar, into which the corn was placed and reduced to meal by the slow process of crushing with a stone pestle.

A CHARMING VIEW.

Where Dunnstown stands must in Indian days have been a place of romantic beauty with picturesque surroundings. Situated on the bluff facing Bald Eagle Mountain, and overlooking the Island and river, the scene presented to the eye is one of enchanting loveliness. Nature did much for the place. There were springs of cool water, wide-spreading trees, and rich soil on which to cultivate corn. It was indeed a fairy land, a wilderness paradise, and it is not strange that the Indians left it in sadness and sorrow.

The site of the village could easily be traced until within a few years by the numerous relics found there. It was located on the lands of the late Major David McCloskey and Bethuel Hall. On the ground of the former was situated a fine spring. The land at this point recedes with a gradual slope to the river's edge opposite the Island. East of Clinton Harbor the surface of the land is considerably elevated above the river.

Many Indian relics have been found on the ground occupied by the village of Dunnstown. They consisted principally of arrow-heads of different patterns, tomahawks, stone pipes, beads, celts, pestles and gorgets. A bronze medal, evidently of English manufacture, was found there a few years ago.

The Munseys had another village up the river, about two miles above the Great Island, traces of which were plainly visible long after the Indians left the valley. It was called Munseytown, and was one of the villages destroyed by

Colonel Armstrong on his return from the Kittanning expedition. The ground was level and the soil rich, making it an excellent place to raise Indian corn. There are several farms on it to day. Many Indians were buried in a mound near where the village stood, and for years the ground was rich in relics, and antiquarians fairly reveled there.

GREAT ISLAND BURIAL GROUND.

The regular Indian burial ground for the Great Island and neighboring villages was situated a short distance west of the village on the Dunnstown site, and on the east side of Clinton Harbor, in a grove of wild plum trees. Here it is probable that many Indians were buried. How long it was so used no white man knows. It might have been in use for centuries, and through its portals hundreds of braves may have passed to the "happy hunting grounds."

There were a number of graves also located on what is known as Reed's Hill, or the picnic grounds. As early as 1820 one of these graves or tombs was opened. It was accidentally discovered by a hunter whose dog chased a rabbit into a ledge of rocks. An examination showed it to be a shelving rock walled up with rough stones around its outer edge, so as to form a small chamber or tomb. Removing part of the rude wall and peering beneath the rock, the hunter found himself confronted by an Indian woman in a sitting posture, very much resembling a mummy. Her clothing, although falling into shreds, showed that it had been richly decorated with beads and trinkets, which indicated that she had been a woman of some note in her tribe. Near by were a kettle of European make, several bottles, and gilt buttons, the latter bearing the stamp, "London," which showed that the corpse did not possess great age.

LAST RED MAN.

The last genuine Indian known to have visited Dunnstown and the Great Island was in 1878. He was a Seneca,

named William Dowdy, and came from their reservation in New York. He was well advanced in years, but lingered for some time around the neighborhood, as if pleasant memories of other days had cast a charm over the scenes spread around him, and recalled traditions that had been handed down by those who had gone before. Perhaps his ancestors had once lived here, or perhaps their ashes commingled with the soil in the old Indian graveyard, and he longed to gaze for the last time upon the places that were sacred to his fathers. After satisfying his curiosity and refreshing his memory, he gently folded his blanket around his aged form and quietly glided away into the gloom of the forest, never more to return.

NAVIGATION BY WATER.

During the first quarter of the present century Dunns-town grew very slowly. More attention was given to farming than town building. The war of 1812-14, and the hard times which followed, operated as a wet blanket on the prosperity of the country. In those early days farmers had a hard time to get their produce to market. The only means they had was to load their grain in arks and send it down the river to Columbia and Baltimore. Often these crafts were wrecked on the rocks and their contents lost. It was on this account that early efforts were made to secure a better method of water communication with the seaboard markets.

The first movement looking to this end was the survey of the river in 1790—already referred to—and which finally culminated in the building of the canal in 1833, forty-three years afterwards. Although William Dunn had one of the richest and finest grain-producing farms on the river, and was deeply interested in a better way of marketing his produce than by the perilous river, he had been dead twenty-seven years before the great improvement was completed.

Soon after Lycoming County was organized (April, 1795,) Dunnstable Township was created by the division of Pine Creek Township, which then included the Great Island, and named in honor of William Dunn, who was then living. By subsequent divisions it has been so reduced in size that at the present time it is only about three and a half by four miles in extent. Yet it retains its original name (Dunnstable) and includes the Great Island and Dunnstown. As the town never was incorporated, its population is included in that of the township, which, according to the census of 1890, was 576. Dunnstown proper, therefore, has a population, probably, of less than 400.

THE CANAL RIOTS.

The building of the canal was a great event in the history of Dunnstown and caused lively times. In fact the town "boomed" in those days and manifested more activity than it has at any time since, save when the great saw mill was in operation over forty years ago. In addition to the canal, which terminated here, a great dam had to be constructed across the river to turn the water into it. This necessitated the employment of hundreds of workmen, and as they were nearly all foreigners, they became a troublesome element and caused no little anxiety. A feeling of animosity existed between two classes of workmen, which culminated in a great riot in the summer of 1833, necessitating the calling out of the militia to suppress the disturbance and assist in the arrest of the ringleaders. The affair caused great excitement throughout the country and was the subject of lively conversation and discussion for a quarter of a century afterwards. A writer thus describes the exciting affair in Hazard's Register (Vol. XII., p. 157,) under date of August 26, 1833:*

*Clinton County was erected by act of 1839, six years after the riot, and the Great Island and Dunnstown passed from the jurisdiction of Lycoming County.

"I arrived at Williamsport last night, (August 25, 1833,) at a time of great excitement, and proceeded to this place, the scene of action, this morning. On Friday last one of the laborers on the canal went into the orchard of Mrs. Hunt, near the Great Island Dam, and was in the act of knocking down apples, when a young man, the son of Mrs. Hunt, discharged a gun loaded with shot at the laborer, who is supposed to have been hit by some of the grains, but he fled and has not since been heard of.

"The boatmen employed in collecting stone to fill in the structure of the dam, it is said, taunted the Irish laborers on the canal with the mishap of their countryman in his depredations upon Hunt's orchard, which produced irritation, and as a most unavoidable consequence among such an excitable people, an attack was made the same evening by the canal laborers upon the boatmen. There were some black eyes and flesh wounds on this occasion, and most unfortunately one of the canal men received a discharge of large shot, from a gun, in his left arm and breast, which the physicians think puts his life in great peril. His case is considered very dangerous this evening by them, as Dr. B. himself informs me.

"The report of these doings spread along the line with rapidity, and the gentlemen concerned in superintending the work did all they could to avert the mischief that was evidently brewing. A report was circulated on Saturday morning that the man who had been shot the preceding evening was dead. A number of the laborers employed below Dunnstown turned over their wheelbarrows in the afternoon and proceeded up towards the dam. They made an attack on Major Colt's shanty, knocked him down, and beat him, which would have been to death but for the interference of an Irishman, who received the blows directed against the Major. The shanty they tore down. Other persons, entirely unconnected with the previous disputes,

were also attacked and injured, and the riot became so serious that word was sent to the Sheriff—and the military of the neighborhood was called. On Sunday the disturbance still continued, and the boatmen made an attack with axes upon the shanties of the Irish below the dam and razed ten or a dozen of them, belonging to laborers who had taken no part in the riot. This transpired just as Capt. S. Hunter Wilson's Nittany company of horse arrived on the opposite shore, and was over before he could reach the scene of action. Some companies of military from the neighborhood assembled the same day and quiet was restored. A number of Irish laborers were arrested, and after a laborious investigation before 'Squire Dunn to-day, sixteen* were sent to Williamsport under an escort of the military, there to be imprisoned till they get their trials, which will be at the court next week, and several others were bound over on bail to appear at the same time for the same purpose.

"The boatmen concerned in the outrage of destroying the shanties are lurking in the hills, out of the way of

*The Quarter Sessions docket for September term, 1833, shows that the following were indicted: Morris Kirby, Jeremiah Crowley, Dennis Sanitan, Dennis Hays, Bartholomew Regan, Patrick Shannacy, John Kelly, Dennis Kelly, Michael Maninsky, Michael McCarty, Michael Manahan, James Crowley, Dennis Sullivan, Timothy McCarty, John Harrieu. There were four counts in the indictment, viz.: 1, riot; 2, tearing down dwelling houses; 3, riot with assault and battery; 4, assault and battery with intent to kill and murder. Judge Chapman presided at the trial. The following were found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of \$5 each to the county, costs of prosecution, and undergo an imprisonment of three months in the county jail in solitary confinement, and stand committed until the whole of the sentence was complied with: Morris Kirby, Dennis Hays, Patrick Shannacy, John Kelly, Michael Maninsky, Michael Manahan, James Crowley. Following was the jury: John Ulman, William Callahan, Henry Keagle, Richard Hays, Francis Carothers, Alexander Smith, Michael Strayer, Herman C. Piatt, John Carothers, Isaiah Hagerman, John Marshall, Jacob Rothrock. The total costs of the trial were \$149.08. The largest single items were: Justice's bill, \$33.73, and prothonotary's, \$78.75. James Winter was the sheriff.

the officers of justice, else, I understand, they would be arrested, and if but half of what is stated respecting them be true, they ought to be punished with as much severity as the Irish. They are said to be mostly Germans from Mahantango.

"The Irishman shot and so dangerously wounded, is a Cork man, and every one committed to jail at Williamsport, is from Cork also.

"I have been more particular in this account than is my custom for this reason: On my arrival at Williamsport, but twenty-six miles from the place of disturbance, the story was that 500 Irish had been turning everything upside down, that about 250 militia and volunteers had reached the ground, and that many had been shot in the affrays of Saturday and Sunday, and there was no telling what might be the issue. When I got to Dunnstown the story was that three were dead of gunshot wounds; one had been found on the opposite shore and another in the hills. These exaggerations, I concluded, would be further exaggerated by the time they would reach Harrisburg, and hence I loitered through the day about Dunnstown and the dam, making inquiries at the best sources, the result of which is here set down."

James D. Harris, the engineer, also made an official report of the riot, dated Jersey Shore, September 1, 1833, to John Mitchell, canal commissioner. It differs little from the foregoing. The apple stealing affair is given as the beginning of the trouble. McMurtree was the contractor or boss at the lock-pit, and it was two of his men who entered Mrs. Hunt's orchard, one of whom was shot by her son Jesse and slightly wounded. It was Miles & Packer's hands who collected near the shanty of the chute contractors, and while Colonel Colt, Shriver and ten or twelve others were at supper, assaulted them and tore down the shanty, beat Colt and drove Shriver into the river. After

that all Americans were indiscriminately assaulted. Capt. Samuel H. Wilson reached the dam Sunday morning with about forty troopers, just when the boatmen had commenced tearing down the Irish shanties. Capt. John Smith soon arrived with his infantry company, followed by Captain Snyder's Riflemen. The former reported twenty men in service and the latter twenty-two.

An amusing incident of the riot was long preserved. Capt. Robert Maffett, of Jersey Shore, commanded a company of militia, and on Sunday he was attending a camp-meeting near Pine Creek, when the news reached him that his company would probably be called. In a state of great excitement he mounted the preacher's stand, and in a loud voice made proclamation for his men to assemble at once, as their services were likely to be needed, as war had broken out at Dunnstown. It does not appear that his company was called.

DUNNSTOWN OF TO-DAY.

Mr. Elmer E. Person, a representative of *Pennsylvania Grit*, who visited the old town in the autumn of 1893, thus wrote about it :

"The old lock and gates, by which water was let into the canal from the river, remain intact, the great, massive masonry indicating the permanent manner in which the canal and its accessories were built. On the bank of the canal still stands the old wayside inn or tavern—a rambling, two-story log structure, a portion of which has been covered with weatherboards. This was a famous hostelry in its day, and it was one of the important stops during the time when stage coaches were the only means of public transportation. It was then larger than what it is now. When the canal was built a portion of the old inn was torn away to make room for a roadway between it and the canal bed. For many years after the completion of the canal the

public driveway was upon the towpath for several miles east of this point. This was, of course, the road driven by the stage. The towpath was on the opposite side of the canal from the hotel, and the tavern was reached by a bridge which ended almost at the front door. The post-office was also kept in this house, and it was the custom of the stage drivers to stop their teams opposite the house, run across the bridge and change the mail, then resume their journey. One night in late fall the stage from Williamsport stopped at the Dunnstown post-office for the mail, and the driver hurried across the bridge. It was after dark. One of the passengers alighted from the stage and crossed the bridge to quench his thirst at the inn's bar. He was a stranger in the locality, and after having gotten his drink started back to the stage. He forgot about the bridge, and walked headlong into the canal. Thanks to the efforts of the other passengers and the men at the inn he was rescued before drowning."



THE HISTORIC WAYSIDE TAVERN.*

The northern end of the old building is constructed of stone, and the tradition is that it was originally used for a still house. As Dunn was assessed with a "still house" in 1790, this was probably the place where he converted his grain into whiskey, according to the custom of the times. The building, therefore, was erected before 1790, and is doubtless the oldest landmark on the site of Dunnstown. One or two log additions were afterwards made to it when it was turned into a tavern. The stone part therefore, is over 104 years old.

*For this and the following cut THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL is indebted to the courtesy of *Pennsylvania Grit*.

THE PLAIN WHITE CHURCH.

Mr. Person continues:

"The people of Dunnstown point with pride to their church—a plain white structure, built in the early fifties and located on the edge of the little burying-ground. Since its construction additional area has been added to the burial plot, and the church stands to-day surrounded upon three sides by headstones, monuments and dark green pines. The church itself is severely plain, reminding one of a Friends' meeting house in the midst of a Quaker settlement. For many years church services in Dunnstown were held in a little log school house that formerly stood along the main street. In this building, about the time the canal was being built, an Irishman committed suicide one night. Next morning his body, cold and stiff, was found lying on the floor. The remains were buried along the roadside north of the village, and from that day to this the spot and vicinity has been known as the "Irishman's grave." It was in a lonely place, and is one of the "bugaboos" in the life of Dunnstown children.

"Finally, through the efforts of David McCloskey, a movement was inaugurated looking toward the building of a church in the town. This movement resulted in the construction of the present church structure by popular subscription. Recently James C. McCloskey, city editor of the Lock Haven *Evening Express*, found among some papers which belonged to his father the original subscription paper, on which the names of the givers to the church fund appear, a copy of which is given herewith:

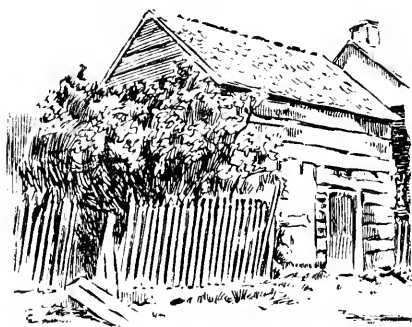
"We, the undersigned, agree to pay to David McCloskey, or order, the amounts opposite our names, for the purpose of building a Methodist E. Church in or near Dunnsburg, Clinton County, Pa.

"August 26, A. D. 1851.

"Signed: David McCloskey, Bethuel Hall, Thomas Curts, William Richey, Abraham Bartholomew, Felix McCloskey, Francis Craig, L. A. Mackey, Cunrad Naill, John Myers, William Poorman, Richard Doney,

Thomas McNarney, Patrick McNarney, James A. McCloskey, John Grugan, D. W. Farrand, John McCloskey, Jacob Waterman, Henry Braham, J. H. Irwin, John Reed, James Fearon, Zebulon Baird, John B. Wagner, Levi Livingston, Samuel Betz, William H. Lavery, Robert Irwine, Wilson King.'

"The visitor to Dunnstown cannot help noticing a one-story log structure on one of the main streets of the village,



ONE OF THE OLDEST LANDMARKS.

which, from its antiquated appearance, imparts the fact that it is one of the landmarks of the town. And it is. The building was originally the dwelling house of Ezra Riley, a shoemaker, and one of the very earliest settlers. Subsequently, when by thrift and good man-

agement he had acquired a larger share of this world's goods, Riley built a quite pretentious house just east of the log hut, and he and his family removed therein. Then the log house was used as a cobbler's shop, and as such it served its owner faithfully for many years. It is yet in a quite fair state of preservation and looks as though it would weather the storms of many winters to come.

THE OLD SAW MILL.

"As one arrives at the old town, an object of prominence is the ruin of what was once one of the largest and best saw mills in the West Branch Valley. It was built in 1850 by Burton & Crowell, who came from the lumber regions of Maine to try their fortunes at sawdust making in Pennsylvania. It was a well-equipped 'gang' mill, located at the head of what was called 'Clinton Harbor.' This 'harbor' was a big basin constructed for the purpose of holding the logs for the mill, which were jacked across the canal from the

river. The old mill is fast going to wreck, the boards and framework warping out of shape and rotting away until portions of the structure have fallen down. The high brick stack alone is intact, a credit to the skill of its builder and a monument to the memory of the once busy mill that is now fast going to decay. If not torn down, this stack will remain intact long after the last vestige of the old mill has disappeared, for not a brick has crumbled from its place, and with vine-clad walls this tower proudly rears its head to mark the spot where once industry reigned supreme.

"The main street in Dunnstown, lined on either side by beautiful maple trees, is a model, picturesque village road. Cosy little residences, with spacious yards surrounding them, add interest to the scene. It is in this wide, shady street that the centennial exercises will probably be held. There being no public building in the town, except the little church, there is no opportunity of holding the exercises under roof, hence the grass-covered roadway will be chosen."

THE OLD GRAVEYARD.

The graveyard which surrounds the little church is one of the oldest in the valley. Just when it was founded is unknown. Perhaps William Dunn, as he was the first permanent settler in the neighborhood, selected the spot. Here were deposited the remains of deceased persons years before Dunnstown was founded in 1786, and as a receptacle for the dead it is still used. Here the visitor is brought face to face with that which connects the past with the present. Here repose the ashes of the pioneers. Rough mountain stones, on which are chiseled in quaint characters the names of those who were once prominent in the affairs of the valley, are crumbling away, and in a few years will be destroyed by the elements. William Dunn, the founder, was laid here in April, 1806. The grave of Peter Grove, the renowned Indian fighter, is pointed out near the stump of

the giant oak which spread its protecting branches over it for so many years. He was drowned in the river about 1802, by the upsetting of his canoe as he was crossing from the south side, whither he had gone to attend a shooting match. The accident occurred in front of the hotel of John Myers, which stood on the river bank. Other famous characters and Revolutionary heroes sleep here, but their graves are unmarked.

The oldest inscription on a grave stone, that can be read, runs as follows: "Here lies the body of William Baird, died September the 2d, 1792, aged 79 years." It is made of ordinary mountain stone and is rapidly crumbling away under the action of the elements. William Baird came from New Jersey, and in 1785 he laid a warrant on 218 acres of land lying a short distance east of Liberty, and settled on it a short time before his death. He had four sons,—William, Zebulon, Benjamin, and Joseph,—to whom, by his will of August 1, 1789, he had divided it equally. He also had four daughters. Lydia, one of the number, married William Dunn, Jr.

The location of this old-time graveyard is incomparably beautiful. It occupies a high point of land overlooking the river and Great Island, from which a magnificent view of the surrounding country, the mountains, and the city of Lock Haven, is obtained. Being incorporated, it is kept in good condition. And in early springtime, or when the mellow tinge of autumn begins to show its rich coloring on mountain, hill and dale, no lovelier spot in all this rich valley can be found from which to view the matchless grandeur of nature.

When the centennial services are held on the 13th of next June near the spot where so many heroes lie buried, something should be done toward raising a fund to erect monuments to perpetuate the names and memories of Peter Grove and the grand old pioneer and founder, William Dunn.

DUNNSTOWN CENTENNIAL

Discovery of an Old Deed—Descendants of Rebecca Dunn McFadden.

THE Dunnstown centennial, which was to have taken place on the 13th of June, has been postponed to the 5th of September. Extensive preparations had been made for a proper observance of the event, but owing to the destruction caused by the great flood in the river on the 21st and 22d of May, and the inundation of the lowlands, the committee deemed it better to defer the time of the celebration. It will take place at the time indicated, and the occasion promises to be one of deep interest to all the residents of the beautiful valley in which the town was founded over one hundred years ago by the sturdy old pioneer, William Dunn, and no doubt many of his descendants will be present. T. C. Hipple, Esq., of Lock Haven, will deliver the historical address.

AN OLD DEED.

When William Dunn laid out "Dunnsburgh" in 1786, he evidently prepared himself to do business in first-class style, for he had deeds specially printed in blank for the conveyance of lots to purchasers. One of these old instruments has been preserved. It is for the conveyance of lot 39, in the "plan of Dunnsburgh," to John Bennet, October 13, 1788, in consideration of £3 and one Spanish silver dollar rental per annum. But by the payment of twenty dollars down the rental clause was to be wiped out forever. He was also enjoined from starting a ferry on the river opposite the town. The deed was duly acknowledged and executed before Robert Fleming October 15, 1788, one of the associate judges of the court of Northumberland County.

On the 1st of December, 1814, John Bennet, by certificate on the back of the deed, in consideration of \$17, "assigns and conveys" said lot to John and Samuel Fegundas, "as tenants in common and not joint tenants," and James Cummings and George Grant subscribe their names as witnesses. The acknowledgment was made before John Fleming, one of the associate judges of Lycoming County, the day and year aforesaid. Tunison Coryell, deputy for John Burrows, certifies that it was recorded in Book M, p. 295, on the 5th of December, 1814, at Williamsport.

Another certificate on the back of the deed, dated January 14, 1820, is to the effect that John Fegundas, in consideration of \$30, conveyed said lot to Samuel Fegundas, but the transfer was not executed.

The assignment was recorded in Clinton County August 3, 1872, (Book W, p. 638,) but strange to relate the old instrument, much worn and time-stained, still lies in the office of the recorder at Lock Haven uncalled for.

DESCENDANTS OF REBECCA DUNN.

Rebecca, daughter of William and Sallie (McKinstry) Dunn, b. about 1767; m. Samuel McFadden, but the date is unknown. We have the record of but two children (surname McFadden) born to them, viz.:

i. *Merab*, d. unmarried.

ii. *Mary*, m. her cousin, Alexander Dunn, in 1794.

They settled at what became Meadville, Crawford County, Pa., probably as early as 1794. Doubtless Mr. Dunn was induced to go there by David Mead, who was from Sunbury, and the leading pioneer and founder of the town which now bears his name. He induced a number of residents on the West Branch to follow him. Dunn became one of the first Justices of the Peace of Meadville, and assisted in founding the first library by contributing books

and money for that purpose. Alexander and Mary Dunn had issue:

- i. *William*, b. January 20, 1795; m. Sarah Thompson January 20, 1820, and had issue: Mary Ann, b. November 28, 1822; she m. William Taylor February 11, 1850, and had: Clara Louise, b. January 14, 1851, and she m. Allen B. Youngson and had: Eva Amanda, b. March 12, 1853; m. Frank Rouché. Issue: Emma Shaw; Hattie Findley, b. December 14, 1859; m. John H. Reitze. 2. James Alexander, b. January 15, 1825; m. Clarinda Phillips January 6, 1850. 3. William Thompson, b. June 28, 1828; m. Emily C. McCoy September 15, 1853. 4. Lorenzo Dow, b. 1830; single. 5. Amanda, b. June 19, 1833; m. Michigan Trowbridge December 8, 1853. 6. Milton, b. October 17, 1835; m. Elizabeth Jones, 1870; secondly, Julia Burt, 1880. 7. Samuel Powers, b. 1841; d. 1871; unmarried.
- ii. *John*, b. February 3, 1798; m. Elizabeth Bean, 1820; d. February 3, 1866. Issue: 1. Mary, b. January 5, 1821; she m. William Hart October 12, 1848; d. July 17, 1885. 2. Wilson, b. July 8, 1823; m. Elizabeth Chatman; d. July 18, 1871. 3. George Washington, b. March 9, 1825; m. Elizabeth Turner. 4. Alexander, b. October 27, 1826; m. Catherine Siegler, 1854; d. October 27, 1879. 5. James, b. April 29, 1830; m. Martha McFarland; d. July 2, 1876. 6. Susan, b. September 15, 1832; m. A. T. Randolph, 1856. 7. Samuel, b. September 16, 1835; d. January 7, 1855. 8. Jane, b. March 25, 1839; m. Erskine Snodgrass January 29, 1863.
- iii. *James*, b. September 10, 1800; m. Maria Thompson January 24, 1824; d. February 14, 1874. He enlisted at the age of twelve years and served in the war of 1812. Had issue: 1. William Thompson, b. May 29, 1825; m. Amelia Allen April 25, 1861, and they had: William, Mary, Edward and Amelia. 2. Alexander Powers, b. August, 1827; d. April, 1850. 3. Mary Louise, b. March 1, 1829; m. James P. Silliman December 1, 1852. No issue.

4. Euphrates McFadden, b. June 7, 1831; d. November, 1845; unmarried. 5. Socrates Adonis, b. June 7, 1831, twin; m. Sarah D. Richardson July 3, 1866. Issue: William James, b. October 14, 1857; m. Elizabeth T. Brown January 7, 1877, and had: Maria Elizabeth, b. September 16, 1886; Charlotte Louise, b. September 15, 1888; d. August 27, 1890; William Stanley, b. August 14, 1891; Walter Kenneth, b. May 24, 1894. George Edward, b. September 6, 1860; d. February, 1875; Laura Anna, b. October 31, 1864; m. Charles D. Ray July 24, 1887; Hetty Maria, b. December 31, 1866; Charles Thompson, b. March 1, 1873; Frank Botsford, b. October 26, 1874; Sarah Elizabeth, b. August 1, 1877; Mary Amelia, b. July 25, 1879. 6. Maria Ann, b. May 21, 1832; m. Robert F. Findley October 9, 1851. Issue: Emma Louise, b. April 27, 1853; m. Harry Fochringer, 1869; Frank W., b. May 15, 1856; Hattie Maria, b. December 24, 1858; m. A. Imbrie October 2, 1884. Issue: Addison Murray, b. September 10, 1891. 7. Sarah Cordelia, b. March 10, 1835; m. Robert M. Johnson September 16, 1854. Issue: William Montague, b. October 5, 1855; d. March 11, 1857. Nancy Maria, b. December 20, 1858; m. Charles R. Galbraith November 21, 1879; Harriet Arvilla, b. March 31, 1860; d. March 25, 1869. Charles Robert, b. September 10, 1862; m. Lilly Lewis October 5, 1893. Grace Botsford, b. January 25, 1872. Maud Findley, b. June 24, 1874. 8. Harriet Thompson, b. January 10, 1837; m. W. J. B. Finley August 21, 1860. Issue: Carrie Elizabeth, b. December 29, 1861; m. Samuel H. Southerland July 24, 1883. Charles H., b. 1865; d. July, 1883. James Edward, b. June 9, 1870; m. Maude Powell February 15, 1894. 9. Esther Rebecca, b. June 14, 1839; m. John E. Botsford September 1, 1856. Issue: Louise, b. January 26, 1858; d. February 2, 1858. Edward Pottle, b. July 11, 1860; m. Frances D. Maple September 18, 1888. James Archibald, b. May 16, 1862; m. Sarah B. Lippincotte June 14, 1892. Julia Kent, b. May 24, 1865. 10. Lucy Mathildo, b. December, 1841; d. 1844. 11. James Jerome, b.

April 11, 1842; m. Jennie M. See December 16, 1872. Issue: Walter Edward, b. February 22, 1875. George Thompson, b. March 18, 1878. Harvey Burton, b. April 10, 1880. Arvilla Maria, b. January 30, 1885. 12. Arvilla Emma Caroline, b. May 30, 1845.

iv. *Rebecca*, b. November 14, 1802; m. Matthew Beatty January 23, 1823; d. March 31, 1883. They had issue: 1. William, b. December 26, 1823; m. Catherine Moyer July 10, 1845; d. February 10, 1872. 2. Mary Ann, b. March 11, 1826. 3. Alexander, b. February 20, 1829; m. Mary Pearson October 19, 1859. 4. Elmer Hogue, b. May 7, 1831. 5. Merab McFadden, b. September 25, 1833; m. Daniel Devore May 3, 1853. 6. William, b. July 14, 1836; d. December 11, 1836. 7. Lucy Ann Best, b. December 13, 1838; m. Frank Couse October 20, 1863. Catherine Rebecca, b. April 8, 1842; m. Henry Yard November 28, 1870; d. August 3, 1873. 9. Matthew Anson, b. December 3, 1845; m. A. Carr June 15, 1875.

v. *Wilson*, b. July 4, 1805; m. Catherine Henry April 1, 1830; d. December 16, 1873. They had issue: 1. Sarah H., b. June 10, 1831; m. James Jones. 2. Samuel H., b. April 10, 1833; m. Almira White March 28, 1860. 3. William Beatty, b. January 7, 1835; m. Margaret Crawford September 18, 1860. 4. James Alexander, b. October 27, 1837. 5. Catherine; m. John Axtell November 30, 1865.

THE first railway built in Pennsylvania was the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, which was $84\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, and the first car was run over the line from Philadelphia to West Chester on Christmas day, 1833.

THE original limits of Philadelphia occupied the area between the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers and Vine and South streets.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY.

Its Townships and Boroughs--When They Were Organized, and Why So Named.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY was erected by act of Assembly passed March 26, 1804, out of territory taken from Lycoming and Huntingdon counties. According to the official report of the Land Office it contains 1,130 square miles, or 723,200 acres. The county was attached to Centre County for judicial purposes until January 29, 1822; previous to that date the records were kept at Bellefonte, where they may still be found. After that they were kept at Clearfield, when the first public buildings were erected. On the 14th of March, 1805, an act of Assembly declared the whole county of Clearfield one election district or township, called Chin-cle-cla-moose, after the old Indian town of that name, which was located on the "cleared fields," near where the county seat now stands. The original name has been almost entirely lost, the only part remaining being Moose Creek, a small stream which falls into the river from the west side, nearly opposite the Beech Creek Railroad station. The termination of the name was originally written "Mousche," but the first three syllables were dropped and the fourth and last corrupted into "Moose," as being more euphonious. This is all that remains to perpetuate the beautiful Indian name of Chin-cle-cla-mousche, and it is so changed that its origin is scarcely recognized.

The civil sub-divisions of Clearfield County into boroughs and townships, as they now exist, are given herewith. The population figures are taken from the census of 1890.

TOWNSHIPS.

1. *Beccaria Township* was formed by a division of Chin-cle-cla-mousche in 1807. As now constituted—having

been shorn of much of its original territory—it lies in the south-western part of the county, and the Bell's Gap Railroad runs through it. It was called for the distinguished Italian philosopher, Marquis de Beccaria, who reformed the criminal law. Pop., 3,021.

2. *Bradford*, which was originally a part of Chin-cle-mousche, was formed in 1807, and named in honor of Surveyor General Bradford. Pop., 1,981.

[In 1823 a small addition was made to Clearfield by act of the Legislature, which authorized the Deputy Surveyor General to run a line from the mouth of the second run emptying into the West Branch of the Susquehanna from the north side of "Buttermilch Falls," at true bearing north 35° west to the (then) present county line.]

3. *Bell* was formed from parts of Pike and Chest February 4, 1835, and confirmed May 4th. It was named in honor of Arthur Bell, an early settler. The village of Mahaffey lies within its borders. Pop., 1,484.

4. *Bigler*, named in honor of ex-Governor William Bigler, was erected by vote December 27, 1882, and confirmed in 1883, and the older townships of Woodward, Geulich, Beccaria and Knox contributed territory for its formation. Pop., 1,841.

5. *Bloom*, named after William Bloom, a pioneer settler, was erected by decree of court January 14, 1860, after division had been authorized by a vote of the people. Its territory was formerly embraced in the townships of Pike, Penn, Brady and Union. Pop., 364.

6. *Boggs* lies in the eastern part of the county, and south-east from the county seat. It was erected in the early part of 1838, and named after Moses Boggs, then an associate judge. Its chief stream is Clearfield Creek, and Wallaceton Borough is its principal town. Pop., 835.

7. *Brady*, named for Capt. Sam. Brady, the renowned

Indian fighter, was organized in 1826. It is located in the north-west corner of the county, and is about 2,000 feet above the sea level. The first white settler was James Woodside, a native of Chester County. He located on a tract of land which was surveyed to him in pursuance of warrant No. 570, on July 30, 1785, and situated on the head-waters of Stump Creek. For twenty-two years no one came to cheer him, save the red man of the forest. At the expiration of this time, Joab Ogden came and located about a mile further down the creek. At the end of a century a monument was erected to his memory at DuBois. The first post-office in the township was established at Luthersburg in 1820. Pop., 1,918.

8. *Burnside*, situated in the extreme south-west corner of the county, was originally taken from Chest Township in 1835, and was so called in honor of Thomas Burnside, then President Judge of the IVth Judicial District. Among the early settlers was William Mahaffey, of Lycoming County, who came in 1827, and purchased a large tract of land. It was the request of the people that this township should be called "Cherry," on account of its situation in the vicinity of the "Cherry Tree," the head-waters of canoe navigation on the West Branch, and mentioned in the land treaties between the proprietaries of the province and the Indians, but the viewers thought another name preferable, and suggested "Burnside," which was made in writing and attached to their report. Modesty, undoubtedly, forbade Judge Burnside from so naming the township, and that duty was done by Moses Boggs, one of the associate judges then sitting. Pop., 1,614.

9. *Chest* was formed October 16, 1826. It was named after Chest Creek, which flows through its borders. This is said to have been the Indian name for the stream, but the *true* Indian word has not been preserved. Pop., 1,314. Weston is its only town of note.

10. *Covington* was erected on petition of residents at April sessions, 1817. It is one of the northern tier of townships, bounded on the north by Cameron County. A French settlement was commenced as early as 1832, brought about by the failure of a Philadelphia banker having a large indebtedness in France. M. Zavron, a French creditor, got possession of these lands, and through the assistance of John Keating, his agent, the colony was founded. The principal place in the township is called Frenchville. Pop. of the township, 747.

11. *Cooper* was brought into existence by a decree of court dated January 18, 1884, and its territory was taken from Morris Township. It was so named in honor of the Cooper family, the pioneer of which was Daniel Cooper, who came to the locality in the year 1828, and settled within a short distance of Kylertown. The mining town of Peale, named after ex-Senator Peale, of Lock Haven, is situated within its boundaries. Pop., 2,276.

12. *Decatur* was formed in 1828 by dividing Bradford, and was so named in honor of Commodore Stephen Decatur. Chester Hill Borough was taken from it. Pop., 4,779.

13. *Ferguson* was laid out on a petition of residents of Pike, Penn and Jordan townships, and the report of the viewers was confirmed February 7, 1839. It was named Ferguson, by the court, in honor of John Ferguson, an early settler and respected citizen. The village of Gazzam is its principal settlement. Pop., 981.

14. *Geulich* is the only township in Clearfield that has for its boundary the boundary line of three other counties—Centre, Blair and Cambria. It was organized in 1858, and Judge Burnside so named it out of respect for Father Geulich. He was among the early settlers, and left numerous descendants. The township is mountainous. At the

celebrated peak, known as "Highland Fling," eight miles from Tyrone, an altitude of about one thousand feet is reached. Janesville and Allemansville are the principal villages. Pop., 1,300.

15. *Girard*, erected prior to September, 1832, was called after Stephen Girard, because many of its early settlers were French. It lies in the northern part of the county. The hamlet of Gillingham, named after Joseph Gillingham, of Philadelphia, a large land owner, is within its borders. Pop., 587.

16. *Graham* was organized by decree of court August 22, 1856, and named in honor of James B. Graham, an enterprising citizen, who came to the county with his parents in 1822. Pop., 696.

17. *Goshen* was erected by decree of court, dated May 5, 1845, out of territory taken from Lawrence and Girard. The name was given to it by William Leonard, "because," as he said, "the section was a land flowing with milk and honey." It has for its northern boundary the county of Elk. Pop., 476.

18. *Greenwood* was organized March 19, 1875, after violent and protracted opposition. At first it was sought to call it "Hoyt," in honor of Dr. John P. Hoyt, but "Greenwood" was finally accepted as a compromise, and named after Greenwood Bell, a well-known and respected citizen. Its territory was taken from Bell, Ferguson, and Penn townships. Pop., 566.

19. *Huston*, organized in 1839, was so named in honor of Judge Charles Huston, the eminent jurist. The village of Winterburn, situated in its borders, is said to have gotten its name in this curious way: In the early fifties its site was covered by a forest, and during the winter the ground was cleared by burning. When the village sprung up it was named "Winter-burn," because the ground was cleared in

the "winter" by "burning" the brush and timber. Pop. of the township, 1,840.

20. *Jordan* was formed from Beccaria September 4, 1834. It took its name from Hugh Jordan, an associate judge of the county and Revolutionary soldier. Ansonville is a prettily located town, and was named in honor of Anson Swan, a deaf and dumb brother of John and Henry Swan. Pop., 1,415.

21. *Karthus* was formed of territory taken from Covington February 3, 1841, and named in honor of Peter Karthus, who established iron works in 1817 on Moshannon Creek. The village of Karthus was laid out on the Keating lands as early as 1827. New Karthus, a small village lying near by, was built up chiefly through coal and lumbering operations. Pop., 1,368.

22. *Knox* was created by decree of court, dated May 19, 1854, out of parts of Jordan, Pike and Ferguson townships. It was called "Knox" in honor of the late president of the court. New Millport, the only village in the township, is situated on Little Clearfield Creek. Pop., 810.

23. *Lawrence* was formed in 1814, out of a part of old Chin-cle-cla-mousche Township. Within this township the French once contemplated the erection of a fort, and it was here that Captain Hambright was sent from Fort Augusta in 1756 to destroy an Indian town. It is supposed to have been named after the brave Captain Lawrence. The borough of West Clearfield lies within its borders. Pop., including Glen Richey village, 2,773.

24. *Morris* was created February 3, 1836. On the draft made by the viewers, in the handwriting of the court, appears these words: "This township, named 'Morris,' in honor of the Hon. Robert Morris, a distinguished patriot of the Revolutionary war." Pop., including Ashcroft and Morrisdale villages, 3,297.

25. *Penn*, taken from Pike, originally embraced all the lands west of the river, and was erected by decree of court dated February 4, 1835. Judge Burnside, who was on the bench, named it "Penn," in honor of the original proprietor. The famous Grampian Hills are within its boundaries, and it has the boroughs of Lumber City and Pennville. Dr. Samuel Coleman, the second resident physician of Williamsport, settled here in 1809, and named the Grampian Hills, because they reminded him of the land of his nativity. Joseph Boone, also of Williamsport, came here in 1809 and settled, and he was clerk of the court when the township was erected. Pop., 806.

26. *Pike*, originally situated in the centre of the county, was created at November sessions, 1813, and was named after Gen. Zebulon Pike, an officer in the U. S. Army during the war of 1812, who was killed at York, Canada, in the year 1813. He was also the discoverer of Pike's Peak. Its principal towns are Curwensville, Bloomington, Bridgeport and Olanta. The territory formerly belonged to Chincle-cla-mousche, and when taken for Pike wiped out the old Indian name. Pop., 1,445.

[*Pine*, embracing a section of the county known as "The Barrens," was created in 1869 from part of Lawrence, Pike and Huston. It is composed of "unseated lands," has no inhabitants, and therefore is not an election district. The name only comes to the front when the "unseated lands" are advertised to be sold for taxes.]

27. *Sandy* was organized by a decree issued at the September term of court in 1878. It was named Sandy, after Sandy Lick Creek, which flows through its borders. Pop., 2,152.

28. *Union* was taken from Pike and Brady townships, by decree of court made at the December term, 1848, and so named on account of the "union" of the two parts. It

contains about twenty-six square miles. The main stream of the township is Anderson Creek. Pop., 639.

29. *Woodward* was taken from the township of Decatur February 3, 1846, and was so named in honor of Judge Woodward. It is bounded on the south by Cambria County. The towns of Madera, Houtzdale and Brisbin are located within its borders. Pop., 5,596.

LOST TOWNSHIPS.

Sinnemahoning was erected by a decree of court dated January 25, 1821. In the month of April following the name was changed to Fox, in honor of Mr. Fox, of Philadelphia, who owned extensive tracts of land in the county. In 1868, by act of the Legislature, a part of the township was added to Snyder Township, Jefferson County; another part was given to Horton Township, Elk County, and the remaining part to Huston Township, Clearfield County. Thus it lost its individuality in this county and the name was stricken from the list.

Gibson was erected in 1817 out of part of Covington, and the two formed the first townships lying *wholly* north of the West Branch of the Susquehanna. It lay north of Covington, and was so named in honor of John Bannister Gibson, one of the justices of the Supreme Court, and afterwards Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. This township was partly taken in the formation of Elk County, and the part not taken was added to the townships adjoining.

Jay was formed in 1832 from parts of Fox and Gibson. A part of the township was taken when Elk County was erected in 1843, and the remaining parts were annexed to Huston and Lawrence townships. So this township, which had been named by the court in honor of Chief Justice Jay, also ceased to exist.

BOROUGHs.

Although Clearfield was laid out as early as 1805 by the commissioners appointed by the Governor to select a site for the county seat, it was not incorporated by act of Assembly until April 21, 1840. The first court was held here in October, 1822, in pursuance of the act approved January 29, 1822, investing the county with all the rights and privileges of other counties. It takes its name from the "cleared fields," made by the Indians on the rich, alluvial flats lying along the river, which were found by the early French and English explorers. It is a quiet and attractive little borough, with a pop. of 2,248.

Curwensville, located on high ground, near the confluence of Anderson Creek with the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, was incorporated by act of Assembly February 3, 1851. It takes its name from John Curwen, Sr., of Montgomery County, who obtained a patent, December 10, 1798, for 350 acres of land lying at the mouth of Anderson Creek, in what was then Lycoming County. On this land Curwen laid out a town, consisting of forty-eight lots, and named it "Curwensville." He bequeathed the property to his son, George Curwen. Subsequently the greater portion was purchased by John and William Irvin. Up to 1812 not a single building had been erected on the town plot, although two houses are said to have been built on the Curwen lands. After this improvements were made, and in 1821 a post-office was opened. Pop., 1,664.

DuBois, a thrifty, bustling place, which now aspires to be a city, was incorporated at the January term of court in 1881. It takes its name from its founder, John DuBois, the great lumberman and successful business man. Its railroad facilities are excellent. Pop., 6,149.

Coalport was incorporated in 1883 from part of Beccaria Township. It is on the Bell's Gap Railroad, and is 23

miles from Altoona, 25 from Bellwood, Cresson, Clearfield and Ebensburg, and 14 from Houtzdale, Lumber City and Burnside. Pop., 855.

Glen Hope was organized since 1880 from part of Becaria Township, and contains 286 inhabitants.

Mahaffey, founded by Robert Mahaffey, and situated on the river nearly opposite the mouth of Chest Creek, was organized since 1880. The Beech Creek Railroad terminates here, and it has railroad communication with Cresson and other points. Pop., 627.

Newburg, also a borough, has a pop. of 354.

New Washington, situated in the southern part of the county, was incorporated by Legislative enactment April 13, 1859. Pop., 178.

Osceola Mills, laid out by a company of capitalists from Centre County in 1857, was incorporated in 1864. The Tyrone and Clearfield Railroad runs through it. Pop., 1,730.

Lumber City, on the river, six miles above Curwensville, is known as the head of navigation for "full length rafts." It was incorporated in 1858 as the third borough in the county. Pop., 266.

Houtzdale, named after Dr. Daniel Houtz, an extensive land owner, is the outcome of the energy and enterprise of George M. Brisbin. It is connected by rail with Osceola. Incorporated March 20, 1872. Pop., 2,231.

Wallaceton, named after Hon. William A. Wallace, was incorporated March, 1873. It is the seat of extensive fire-brick works. The Tyrone and Clearfield and Beech Creek railroads run through it. Pop., 250.

Burnside was incorporated in 1874, and named after Judge Burnside. Pop., 292.

Chester Hill is an incorporated borough, organized in 1883, and a suburb of Philipsburg, but it cannot be annexed, because the latter is in Centre County. Pop., 563.

Pennville, which lies in the shadow of the Grampian Hills, was organized in 1885 from part of Penn Township. It is at the terminus of the Tyrone and Clearfield Railroad. Pop., 219.

West Clearfield, situated on the west side of the river from the county seat, was incorporated by the court September 24, 1883. The Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg Railroad runs through it. Pop., 621.

Brisbin was organized since 1880 from part of Woodward Township. Pop., 1,508.

Penfield, Huston Township, was created a borough at September sessions, 1891. The name is spelled with one "n," and originated in this way: Gould R. Hoyt wrote many letters—some in poetical measure—in his efforts to secure a post-office for the settlement prior to 1854. The result was that the ready use of the "pen" induced the department to grant the request. It being in *Clearfield* County, the words "pen" and "field" were selected to form the name for the post-office, and it was adopted and so remains. It was not, as many suppose, named after William Penn. Pop., 603.

The last borough at this writing, (July, 1894,) created in Clearfield County, is *Ramcy*. It is a part of Geulich Township, and is on the Osceola branch railroad.

PRESENT STATUS.

From the foregoing it will be seen that Clearfield contains twenty boroughs and twenty-nine townships. These are sub-divided into sixty-seven election districts. Many of the boroughs are mining towns with a small population. The census of 1890 gave the county a population of 69,565, which has been considerably increased since that time. Many of the boroughs have more inhabitants at this time than are given above. Owing to her vast bituminous coal interests the population of Clearfield County will probably exceed 100,000 at the close of the century.

DUNNSTOWN'S GALA DAY.

Success of the Centennial Anniversary—Historical
Address by T. C. Hipple, Esq.

THE CENTENNIAL anniversary of Dunnstown, Clinton County, Pa., September 5, 1894, was a great success. It was the first event of the kind to occur in the West Branch Valley proper, and is the forerunner of more to follow in the near future. Over five thousand people were present and took part in the ceremonies. The military, civic societies and officials of Lock Haven were present, besides hundreds of people from a distance. The ceremonies were imposing and appropriate; the town was in holiday attire and its residents felt proud and happy.

The credit for the success of the affair is largely due to the efforts of Mr. J. C. McCloskey, city editor of the Lock Haven *Evening Express*. Being a native of the ancient village, he naturally felt some pride in having a demonstration on the occasion of its passing the hundredth milestone. A committee was appointed to take the matter in hand and he was made chairman. The bulk of the work, therefore, devolved on him, but he worked unceasingly from the start and had the supreme satisfaction of seeing his efforts crowned with a magnificent success.

In the procession, from Lock Haven, were the city and county officials. Col. W. W. Richie was the master of ceremonies and made the announcements. The Good Templar Band first rendered the overture, "Crown of Victory;" Rev. B. P. King invoked the divine blessing, when the immense audience joined in singing the National hymn, "America," led by Reverend Shoemaker. Among the honored guests on the stand were four descendants of William Dunn, all residents of Pittsburgh, viz.; William T. Dunn, a second

cousin of the late Judge Dunn, and great-grandson of William Dunn, the founder; Socrates Adams Dunn; William James Dunn, great-great-grandson, and William Stanley Dunn, great-great-great-grandson.

The historical address was delivered by T. C. Hipple, Esq., a well known member of the Lock Haven bar. When he was introduced the scene which presented itself to his eyes was an inspiring one. The Lock Haven *Democrat* thus drew the picture:

Before him was a great collection of people—men, women and children, full of life and activity; just on the other side of the lot was the beautiful and sacred enclosure of the Dunnstown dead, from whose graves rose the high monuments of those who had run life's race; then came the river flowing peacefully down the valley; then the fields from which the harvest had just been gathered, while rising like a protector was the Bald Eagle Mountain, causing suggestive thoughts of the land of the living and the home of the dead. Mr. Hipple was in good trim, his voice being strong and his utterances distinct. His oration showed careful and laborious research, and the succinctness with which the historical facts were stated highly delighted those who were within the sound of his voice. That it was favorably received was attested to by the many approving nods, the smiles that spread over the countenances of his hearers when he injected a dash of humor in his remarks, and the applause with which he was greeted when he closed.

THE ADDRESS IN FULL.

As nations and communities grow older and more mature, so there develops a disposition to attach increased weight and sanction to the transactions and occurrences of early years, and thus it has become almost custom to halt awhile at the century line, at the hundredth year mark, in the grand march of time and events, for review and commemoration.

In accordance with this sentiment, the people of Dunnstown have assembled to-day to celebrate, with those who

have been pleased to join them, the centennial or one hundredth anniversary of the founding of their town.

I do not know of any especial reason to be assigned for the adoption of a century as the period for the commemoration of events or affairs of supposed importance. Of course, the lapse of one hundred years may be taken to denote establishment and permanency. It is about far enough beyond the threescore and ten years of life allotted to man, or the fourscore years he may gain by reason of great strength, to remove the actors from the stage, to secure calmer judgment upon their deeds, to inspire respect and veneration in those who follow them, and yet not long enough to efface their memories or destroy that which was worthy and substantial of their handiwork.

The accuracy and continuity of history, whether of country, locality, community or family, are strongly promoted by such observances as this, and patriotism, local pride, family ties and kindred feelings cannot but be quickened and subserved thereby.

It is of undoubted profit for men to pause, in their rapid and exhausting forward march in life, to consider and study history as made by those who preceded them, however broad the range of that history, and whatever the arena in which the makers thereof performed their work.

This natural tendency to commemorate events which concern the common welfare has had expression in all times, whether by the sacred jubilee, the ancient festival or the modern holiday, and all peoples and nations find something in their history to celebrate, be it the achieving of liberty, the establishing or reforming of governments, the birth or accession to power of rulers, the conquering of foes or the occurring of anything of like character or similar importance.

In our United States we celebrated in 1876, at Philadelphia, the centennial of the Declaration of Independence; also in 1881 the centennial of the surrender of the British

army at Yorktown, and the virtual ending of the Revolutionary War; also in 1888, at Philadelphia, the centennial of the adoption or acceptance by the states of the Constitution of the United States. And by the World's Fair, or Columbian Exposition, opened at Chicago in 1892, but actually conducted in 1893, was commemorated the fourth centennial, the four hundredth anniversary of the landing of Columbus in America.

Many instances could be given of centennial observances, not national or political in their character, and of less significance than those I have mentioned, but it is not necessary to dwell on this.

INSPIRING OCCASIONS.

In the history of our own land, made within our time, there will be to future generations no lack of inspiring occasions for the most lavish display of this disposition. The events of our civil war, which we can yet remember, and in which some of you took part, are yet too recent, although almost one-third of a century has passed, to be properly assigned their places in history and to be fully appreciated; but after we, or at least the most of us, are gone, and the flight of one hundred years has shown to mankind their vast significance, the proud people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can celebrate in 1963, with the freemen of this land, the centennial of the battle of Gettysburg, fought on Pennsylvania soil, where, with the gallant Pennsylvanian, General Meade, in command, and with thousands of heroic Pennsylvanians in the ranks, some of whom hear my voice to-day, the Southern hosts were beaten, and the backbone of the rebellion broken. Then in close order, in 1965, can follow the centennial of that triumphant day at Appomattox Court House, which some of you saw, where the surrender of Lee to Grant closed our civil war, and where, in the forbearing conduct of the victors toward the vanquished, was

contributed to history one of its greatest instances of noble magnanimity, and I believe among the most thrilling and impressive features of those centennials and such as those will be the hearty and loyal acquiescence throughout this broad land in the lessons thereof, by the descendants alike of those who fought on opposite sides at Gettysburg, at Appomattox and other bloody battle fields.

What an inspiration will it be on those centennial days to look back over almost two centuries—nearly 200 years—forming a grand period of devotion to free government; a rainbow arch, with one base resting in the midst of the history and events which culminated in the declaration of 1776, and the other founded upon the idea and realization of intelligent self-government, as it will exist in 1965; and, about midway in that two-century span, will appear our civil war period marking the tested spot where it had been predicted, by some observers of our early colonial struggle for freedom, would be shown the inherent weakness of our form of government, but where instead will then be seen its very strongest part; the strongest, because there cemented and sealed with the blood of opposing brethren, shed like heroes upon many battle fields, but after all shed and mingled to assist in the true solution of the problem of self-government, and to make it clear that a government of the people, by the people and for the people was and will remain an established fact, notwithstanding human weakness and frailties may lead sometimes to internal differences and strife.

The fast going years have placed the century mark upon the settlement of our West Branch Valley and adjacent sections, and, doubtless, this example of Dunnstown will be followed elsewhere. Our neighboring borough of Bellefonte will, I understand, complete her circle in the coming year, as will also the flourishing city of Williamsport, the old-time rival of Dunnstown for county seat honors; Muncy Borough will make her round in 1897, although entitled, it

is claimed, to earlier date by actual settlement; our nearer neighbor, the borough of Jersey Shore, will be due in 1900; Mill Hall can celebrate in 1906, while our county seat, the city of Lock Haven, must bide until 1933. Only Northumberland and Lewisburg stand as the seniors in years of Dunnstown among the settlements in this valley. The one is situated at the extreme eastern limit of the West Branch Valley, and the other but a few miles farther west; and both, it deserves to be noted, are many miles nearer the first settled sea coast, and in locations much more accessible and more easily reached than was this section in those days of no railroads or established modes of transportation. This itself is some evidence of the energy of the men who in those early days pressed on to the very western boundary of this valley, which ends but a few miles above us, at the spot where the West Branch of the Susquehanna River rushes from its mountain confines, to flow more calmly through the widening level lands to the bosom of the sea.

DISCUSSING A DATE.

Something needs to be said concerning the year 1794 as the correct date of the founding of Dunnstown. That it was founded in that year has been the general belief, but that it was actually plotted and laid out as a town as early as 1786, or about 108 years ago, cannot longer be doubted. The earlier histories which I have seen give 1794 as the proper date. In a book published in 1846, and styled a "State Book of Pennsylvania," it is stated in the history of Clinton County as follows: "In 1794 Dunnstown was laid out, and subsequently settlements extended themselves in different directions."

This same book, we may digress to say, states that "Far-randsville, seven miles above Lock Haven on the West Branch, is a deserted manufacturing village." It also informs us that our county, "owing its prosperity to the West

Branch Canal, received the name of Clinton (meaning Dewitt Clinton of New York), the father of similar improvements in New York." Dewitt Clinton was indeed the father and chief promoter of the great canal system of New York State, whereby the waters of Lake Erie were joined by navigable channels with tide water and the mighty ocean, and the material prosperity of New York thereby established, and he was truly deserving of the compliment of having our county given his name. We are further therein informed that "Lock Haven, so called from its position at the junction of the Bald Eagle Navigation with the West Branch Canal, where there are a number of canal locks, and a basin or haven on the West Branch, is a new, thriving town. It has about 500 inhabitants and contains a neat brick court house, a jail, two churches and an academy." Nothing is suggested as to which of said institutions did the most flourishing business, but it must be conceded a well selected assortment, although no mention is made of any hotel or tavern, usually deemed so necessary for the comfort and accommodation of the public. What a fancy! What a picture! Lock Haven without a tavern! But history is not infallible, and we may consider it an oversight of the historian. The population of 500, as given, would furnish about 100 voters, and these distributed among the court house, jail, two churches and academy, (not including any hotel and giving the jail its fair proportion,) would allow an average of about twenty apiece, not including any women and children, and subject, of course, to any personal preferences that might be displayed in the matter. Maynard's History comes to our relief and tells us there was a hotel there as early as 1838, called the Washington House, and kept by J. P. Huling. This stood on the site of what is now the Riverside Hotel, formerly known as the Montour House. Maynard also mentions an older tavern which had been kept by John Devling, below the

canal. Considering the small population, the Lock Haven "inner man" was evidently as fully provided for then as now, and the "traveling public" were not neglected.

In Meginness' Otzinachson, or History of the West Branch Valley of the Susquehanna, completed in 1856 by John F. Meginness and published in 1857, being, I think, the first systematic history of this valley, it appears as follows, viz.: "Dunnstown, near the Great Island, was laid out in 1794 by William Dunn, in the hope that it might become the county seat of Lycoming. He was disappointed, however, and the town never improved much. In later years an effort was made to have the capital of Clinton located there, but it failed." This second failure to make a county seat of Dunnstown closed that avenue to its greatness; but who, viewing this location, with its sufficient area of available land; its splendid but not inconvenient elevation, which favors health and cleanliness; its magnificent range of view, and its other apparent advantages, will condemn the good judgment of the man who so strenuously labored to lift two county seats above high water mark, and to locate them here, where either would have stood in commanding place, free from devastating floods and kindred ills? Might not the result have been otherwise if those concerned had foreseen such overflows of this valley as occurred in 1889 and 1894, to say nothing of 1865?

GREAT FLOODS.

I wonder if William Dunn had in mind the possibility of just such floods as have occurred within our memories, for between his first appearance in this locality in 1769 and the laying out of Dunnstown in 1786 there had, according to Maynard's History of Clinton County, occurred two great floods—one on March 15, 1784, and the other October 5, 1786. The latter was called the "great pumpkin flood," and although there is no record, so far as I know, of the

Great Island, then owned by William Dunn, or the lowlands on the south side, being overflowed by it, yet occurring as it did about the time of his plotting of Dunnstown, it may have been a factor in his selection of this high land for his prospective county seat. This flood of 1786 is said to have endangered Northumberland and Sunbury, leaving only a few acres near the centre of Sunbury above water.

While speaking of floods,* it may be of interest to state the dates of the occurring of the principal ones. Maynard's History gives them as follows: The first flood of which any account is given was that of February, 1692. Subsequent floods occurred February 12, 1731; February 17, 1733; January 28, 1737, when the water was three feet higher than in 1733; January 7, 1762; March 15, 1784; October 5, 1786, (called, as before stated, the great pumpkin flood); October 1, 1787; April, 1800; April 23, 1804; November 20, 1810, also called the pumpkin flood; August, 1814; July 20, 1824, when the water rose higher than was remembered by the oldest inhabitant; March 5, 1831; July 4, 1832; May 17, 1834; February 12, 1837; October 9, 1847; February 7, 1853; September 28, 1861, which was the highest since 1847, and March 17, 1865, which was the greatest and most destructive flood that had been to that time known in the West Branch. Since the publication of Maynard's History, in 1875, we have had the flood of June 1, 1889, which was several feet higher than that of 1865, and also

* In those days the conditions were very different from what they are now. Then the mountains and valleys were covered with dense forests; the ground was carpeted with moss, and decaying timber abounded on every hand. The woodman's ax and fire have removed these elements, which served as absorbents to hold immense quantities of water and prevent it from running swiftly away. Had the conditions of to-day prevailed then, it is very likely that the floods would have been as great one hundred and twenty five years ago as they have been in recent years—excepting, perhaps, the inundations of 1889 and 1894. They were produced by phenomenal down-pours, or "cloud bursts," so to speak.

the flood of May 20, 1894, which was about the same as that of 1865. It is worth while to note that many of these earlier floods occurred in seasons of the year when they could not have been occasioned by sudden melting of large bodies of snow, but must have been from great rain-falls, so that those in 1889 and 1894 were not phenomenal in that respect, although the former was doubtless a veritable deluge when compared with the other and earlier floods. Mr. Meginness, in his revised edition of *Otzinachson*, published in 1889,* states the great floods on this river and mentions some not given by Mr. Maynard, but it is not necessary to repeat these, excepting one which occurred in 1772, thus making three between 1769 and the laying out of Dunns-town, to serve as reasons to William Dunn for locating his town on the highland.

THE TRUE DATE.

Returning to the question of the true date of the establishing of Dunns-town, there have been found records which clearly show it was regularly laid out, with streets, alleys and numbered lots, as early as December, 1786, although nothing appears to show actual improvement in way of buildings. Mr. Meginness, in an article in a recent number of *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL*, published by him, mentions records of deeds of town lots in Dunns-town, or Dunnsburg, as he says it is variously named, among which are the following, viz.: A deed dated December 5, 1786, for lot No. 17 in Dunnsburg, from William Dunn and Margaret, his wife, to Edward Lynch, of Philadelphia, in consideration of six pounds, or less than \$30; another dated December 12, 1786, for lot No. 12, to John Canan, of Bedford County, for three pounds, or less than \$15, and a small annual rental for twenty years. This lot was situated on Water Street, between Market and

*See page 670 for full account. The great flood of June 1, 1889, occurred after the revised edition had been printed.

Arch streets. It had a front of 60 feet and depth of 220 feet, running northerly to an alley of 30 feet—"as (the deed expresses it) by the general plan of Dunnsburg will at large appear;" another to John Sonnel, dated February 12, 1788, for lot No. 63, situated on Arch Street, and bounded west by Buckley's Alley; another to James Birteh, dated September 4, 1790, for lot No. 66, in consideration of six pounds, or less than \$30; another dated December 13, 1790, to Hugh Andrews, for lot No. 297, in consideration of three pounds, or less than \$15. This deed mentions Walnut Street, Second Street and Spring Alley. There is now in the office of the recorder of deeds for this county an original deed from William Dunn and wife to John Bennett, of Northumberland County, dated October 13, 1788. It is partly in printed form, being for lot No. 39, and it mentions lot No. 301 on the plan of Dunnsburg, which indicates a large area of ground plotted and laid out, for the town lots appear to have contained something more than one-fourth of an acre each, exclusive of streets and alleys. Williamsport when first laid out had about 302 lots, and Lock Haven about 165, each considerably smaller than those in Dunnstown.

In THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL article referred to, Mr. Meginness mentions other recorded transfers, but none dated prior to 1794, nor do I know of any other than the above mentioned, and gives his conclusion in the following words: "Enough has been given to fix the date of the founding of Dunnstown in the autumn or winter of 1786. It is therefore the oldest laid out and regularly plotted town in the West Branch Valley, excepting Northumberland and Lewisburg; older than Milton, Muncy, Williamsport or Jersey Shore, and forty-seven years older than Lock Haven, which was laid out in 1833 by the eccentric Jerry Church, but has long since overshadowed Dunnstown;" and in a note to said article he further states that Northumberland was laid out in 1772; Lewisburg in 1785; Milton in

1792; Williamsport in 1795; Muncy in 1797, and Jersey Shore in 1800; but that Muncy, as a settlement, is older than Dunnstown.

Mr. Meginness does not give, so far as I know, his grounds for fixing the date as 1794* in his first history of the West Branch Valley, published in 1857, but historical statements are, of course, subject to correction, based upon after discovered facts, and the people of this valley, and all interested in the history thereof, are much indebted to him for his diligent and instructive researches. His historical writings, I venture to say, are not appreciated now as they will be hereafter,† and to future generations his Otzinachson will, I predict, render his name more familiar in homes and firesides throughout this valley, and earn him a fame as enduring and more desirable than would any monumental shaft or stone.

This discrepancy as to the date of the founding of Dunnstown may have arisen from the erection of some buildings and actual occupation of town lots about 1794, although I do

* Sherman Day, in his "Historical Collections of Pennsylvania," published in 1843, (p. 237,) made the statement that the town was laid out by Dunn in 1794. Daniel Rupp, who followed him a year or two later as the publisher of a number of county histories, in a brief sketch of Clinton County, (p. 359,) repeated the same statement. These statements misled the author of Otzinachson and he fell into the same error. Subsequent examinations of official records on his part revealed the fact that Dunnstown was plotted and laid out as early as December 5, 1786, which may be seen by reference to Deed Book A, p. 329, Williamsport. Further citations may be seen on pp. 20, 21 of the present volume of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL. These deeds of record establish the fact beyond peradventure that Dunnstown was laid out in 1786, or 108 years ago. As the movement for the erection of Lycoming County commenced in 1786, it is probable William Dunn imagined he might secure the county seat—and in 1795, the year the county was created, he went so far as to tender lots on which to erect the public buildings.—ED.

† After a lapse of nearly thirty-eight years it has remained for Mr. Hipple to be the *first* speaker, in the course of a public address, to give the author a word of encouragement for his labors! The compliment, therefore, is more richly appreciated.—ED.

not find reliable data as to that. This difference need not disquiet us at all, for it merely shows the town is 100 years of age truly enough, with almost eight years to spare, which will only tend to increase interest in the occasion which has brought us together. But Dunnstown is not alone or without illustrious company in the matter of uncertainty and obscurity as to the dates of some of its early history. Even the date of the discovery of America, the name of the first discoverer, and the place where its shores were first touched are the subjects of doubt and dispute to this day.

The old tavern building down near the canal lock just below the hill is said to be the oldest building in this locality. It, or a part of it, is supposed to have first been a "still house" as early as 1790. It was built of stone, and afterwards log additions were made to it, and it was converted into a tavern, and doubtless was a good and profitable stand for that purpose, and famous in the days of canal navigation, for every passing boat and packet was compelled to stop awhile in the lock near by, and thus passengers were afforded an opportunity to collect their thoughts and small change, and to study the landscape, including this tavern, of course. Those voyagers going westward to Lock Haven and other points could seek "mine host," the landlord, to see and taste what he had to offer to nerve them for the perilous voyage across the wide-spreading pool of the Lock Haven dam, upon which they were soon to venture; while those journeying eastward could perform the same tactics to felicitate each other upon their escape from a wreck and a watery grave in that vast deep, as well as to prepare themselves for the further journey eastward on the raging canal. For be it known that the Half Way House or tavern was about six miles distant; mule and horse power, though reliable enough, was provokingly slow and tedious when operating through the medium of a long towing-line, and there was much to lead the passengers to suggest to one another, as did the Governor of North Caro-

lina to the Governor of South Carolina—"Truly it is a long time between drinks." It may also be suggested that this tavern doubtless proved to be a convenient point at which to settle and adjust any bets or wagers engaged in and lost or won by the travelers, to while away the tedious hours they were compelled to pass on board the floating palaces used upon the canal in those days.

However, rapid developments and changes have forced this old landmark to the rear, and with the famous canal and the much talked of lock it has gone into disuse. The construction of this West Branch Canal, with its lock and dam, and of the further Bald Eagle Navigation, marked an era in the history of this section, and these public improvements were hailed as a blessing, which they were in their day, of course, to the general public, but apparently not to Dunns-town, so far as regarded the hopes and plans of its founder. The canal boat and canal navigation eventually proved too slow in comparison with steam cars and railroads, and with us have become a thing of the past. How like human experience! We are ushered cordially upon the stage; we stay awhile and perform our parts, and though we do good service and merit the approbation of our fellow-men, we soon retire before newer and more vigorous blood and brain, and ere long our names are scarcely heard in the very places where once they were so often spoken by commending tongues.

The old log building once owned by Ezra Riley, not far from where we are, stands also as a landmark, but whether as ancient as the tavern by the lock does not appear. It seems to have been built with reference to the plot of the town, being upon a street and corner lot, and in what would have doubtless been a good location had the town developed. It has the appearance of being the oldest structure in what may be termed Dunnstown proper, and its old timbers look

as if they had faced the storms and bathed in the sunshine of a full century.

THE GREAT ISLAND.

Although Dunnstown did not become a county seat or acquire the importance its founder hoped for, yet its establishment evidenced his natural sagacity and energy. This land north of the river, including Great Island, was not purchased from the Indians until 1784. But the land on the south side, between the river and Bald Eagle Creek, comprising about 1,620 acres, as surveyed, was granted by the Penns to Dr. Francis Allison, February 4, 1769, and William Dunn in that same year came here with a party sent to survey the Allison land. Mr. Dunn was prompt to size up the location, for he made an improvement about 1770 on Great Island, which is recited in his warrant for the entire island, dated October 13, 1785, being the year subsequent to its purchase from the Six Nations Indians, which improvement doubtless gave him priority as a claimant. There is a tradition that Dunn found this island in possession of an Indian Chief named Nee-wah-lee-ka, and purchased it from him for a rifle, a hatchet, and a keg of whiskey. This sounds rather apocryphal, and Mr. Meginness, in his latest article on the subject, states that its truth is doubtful. I suspect it had its origin in imagination, and perhaps from that sentimental idea which insists upon considering that the Indians were invariably overreached by the white man. Nee-wah-lee-ka and the tawny sons of the forest have disappeared, not because William Dunn and the white settlers of this section dealt unfairly with them, but because it was their destiny. It was so written in the law of civilization; so declared in the order of events; it was merely the survival of the fittest; the retreat of the inferior before the superior, and the operation of laws to which all peoples and nations must yield when the time

comes and the conditions arise. And this time will come and this condition will arise for us as a people sooner or later, just as we prize and cherish individual and public virtue and integrity. If we as a people are just and virtuous, our nation will endure; but if we yield to vice and corruption and practice injustice, we will surely disappear from the face of the earth, as have other nations just as powerful. I think we can safely discard the tradition above mentioned, about the trade or exchange in which it is alleged Dunn got that island, and assume that he obtained his possession and title in the usual and proper way. It is certain he was required to agree to pay to the Commonwealth "immediately," as the wording is, at the rate of thirty pounds for every 100 acres of land, or almost \$1.50 per acre, being as much, I believe, as our government ever charged to settlers upon public land.

He soon after became owner of this land north of the river, by patent from the Commonwealth, for 312 acres, dated December 4, 1786, as recited in some of his deeds, although a warrant was previously issued therefor. This was about the time the movement began to create Lycoming County out of Northumberland. An act for that purpose appears to have been introduced in the General Assembly in September, 1786, a few months before the date of Dunn's patent, but while he held this land under his warrant; but the new county project was bitterly opposed, and about nine years lapsed before it was accomplished, in 1795. Thus it will be seen Mr. Dunn laid out this proposed county seat the same year the move for a new county began.

ORIGINAL SIZE OF LYCOMING.

Lycoming County, as thus created, was about ten times as large as the state of Rhode Island; nearly twice as large as New Jersey; almost three times as large as Connecticut, or almost as large as these three states combined. It was

nearly one-third larger than New Hampshire, and since its erection there have been taken from it territory in whole or in part for sixteen counties, viz.: Armstrong, Bedford, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Indiana, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Sullivan, Tioga, Venango, Warren, Forest, Elk and Cameron.

When the question of locating the county seat came up in 1795, William Dunn, having foreseen it and having prepared for it, by laying out his town in 1786, and thus making it the oldest town of all the claimants, boldly entered the contest with Williamsport and Jaysburg (now part of Williamsport) for the prize. He claimed Dunnstown was farther west than the others, and was more conveniently located for the people of the new county. This argument would, to us, now seem somewhat amusing when we remember that the territory of the county extended west to the Allegheny River, but in that day the county was not settled westward, and he doubtless had in his mind the population largely east of here. He set aside a lot of ground, and yet known here as the "Court House Lot," which he proposed to donate to the new county for court house and public building purposes. The contest between Jaysburg and Williamsport was bitter to the extreme, and at one time it looked as if Dunnstown, with its munificent offer of a lot of ground, would secure the location; but Williamsport, alarmed at this prospect, made a final grand effort and donated four lots, two for the court house and two for the jail, and this carried the question.

Williamsport is to-day a flourishing, progressive city of probably 35,000 inhabitants, while the population of Dunnstown is limited to a few hundred people, and I believe the original plan or plot of the town is not now followed. It does not appear to have ever been recorded, and I do not know of any one now living who ever saw it.

Had William Dunn succeeded in that enterprise, we would doubtless be holding this centennial celebration to-

day in the midst of a thriving borough or city, and the present site of Lock Haven, just across the river, might appear to our vision only as beautiful and fertile farming lands. Thus a community, like an individual, may have its one decisive occasion or opportunity, success in which means everything to it, and from failure in which there is little prospect of recovery.

It was the poet Whittier who wrote :

"For of all sad words of tongue or pen,
The saddest are these, 'It might have been.'"

Of course, there was a practical business feature in this venture to Mr. Dunn, for success meant much to him pecuniarily in the enhancing of the value of his property, and the centering of population here. Nevertheless, this thought must not impair our impressions as to his advanced ideas and public spirit.

A post-office was first established here in July, 1805, and named Dunnsburg; it was removed in 1863 to Liberty and called "Island" Post-office; it was brought back for some reason, but after a short time it was removed again to Liberty, where it has been maintained ever since.

William Dunn died a peaceful death in April, 1806, at his home on the Great Island, and his body was laid to rest in the burial ground here at Dunnstown, in the midst of many of the scenes of his busy life, overlooking his island home and close by the spot where rest the remains of Peter Grove, the famous Indian fighter, whose trusty rifle caused many a savage to bite the dust, but who at last was compelled to undergo the, to him, ignominy of an ordinary death by drowning in the river not far from here.

HIS HISTORY.

Of his history before coming into this section not much is known. He came, it is said, from the North of Ireland, and was of Scotch-Irish descent, a combination of blood and

character that contributed much sturdy and self-reliant element to our early population—an element which stood in and close to the front ranks during the trying struggle for an independent government, and which has made its deep impress upon our history and institutions, both local and general. He certainly displayed manifest signs of Scotch thrift, shrewdness, energy and prosperity. He emigrated to this country, it is supposed, when he was about twenty-one years of age; he appeared about 1769 in this valley with a surveying party, as I have mentioned before, acting as game hunter and general assistant for the party. He is not known to have permanently located elsewhere, and having doubtless heard of this new region, which was being opened up to settlers, took that mode of getting here. The desirable lands on the south side of the river were at that time well taken up, but Dunn seemed to have judged, and correctly too, that the Great Island and this land on the north side, where we are now, could not long remain closed against improvement and settlement, and he appears to have located himself to await developments, which were reasonably prompt in coming in the form of a purchase of territory by treaty from the Indians. He seems to have been successful in acquiring choice parcels of land from the government and turned his attention to the improvement thereof. He bore the fluctuating fortunes of this section and performed his share of duty, figuring prominently in the stirring events of his day, and in June, 1778, he fled from his home with the other settlers, in what is known as the Big Runaway, caused by Indian invasion, and made his way, with his family, to York, in this state. The Revolutionary war was then going on, and it is stated in Maynard's History of Clinton County, and followed in Meginness' History, that, having put his family in a place of safety, Dunn entered the Revolutionary army, and was present at the battles of Germantown and Trenton. It is not unlikely that he did

enter the Revolutionary army as stated, for he was a patriotic and brave man, and realizing that it would be a long time before he could venture to return to his home at Great Island, he may have joined the army and participated in battles, but it is not possible they were the battles of Germantown and Trenton, as stated, for these both occurred before the Big Runaway, which took place in 1778, while the battle of Germantown was fought in October, 1777, and that of Trenton in December, 1776.* I do not find it stated in what year he returned to his home after the Big Runaway. Probably this was about the close of the Revolutionary war, in 1783, and early enough to allow him to reassume his improvements that had been devastated by the Indians, and to prepare to make application for his land when the proper time came. He seems to have had no trouble in obtaining warrants and titles from the Commonwealth, and he is shown to have paid for his land the same as other settlers did. The government would not have countenanced any claim gained by trick, or by any such trade or barter as is attributed to William Dunn, and, therefore, should we not make it one of the results of this centennial celebration to relieve the memory of the founder of this town from any such imputation as that involved in the tradition of a hatchet, a rifle and a keg of whiskey being the consideration he gave an Indian Chief for yonder fertile island?

William Dunn was, however, but a type of the men and people who came here as early settlers. They were men of positive traits and characters, and of the kind who leave

*As he had made an improvement on the extreme borders of civilization, and the savages were constantly threatening the few settlers long before the Big Runaway, it is probable that he left before that exciting affair occurred. In that event he might have participated in the battles named. But the story is founded on tradition only, and no official record to confirm it has yet been discovered.

their impress wherever they abide. Their lots were cast, by circumstances, in this beautiful valley; their mission was to reclaim the wilderness and plant and maintain the standard of civilized development of this outpost, and the numerous descendants of William Dunn can regard with pride the record of his doings as one of the pioneers in this section. Peace to his ashes, and may this centennial celebration awaken greater interest in the thrilling history of our charming West Branch Valley, the Indian Otzinachson, and bring us to clearer knowledge and keener appreciation of the dangers encountered and the heroic services performed by those men in the onward march of civilization.

FIRST WHITE MEN.

The first white men to venture here were, so far as we know,* two Moravian missionaries, who came in 1748, not for conquest or selfish gain, but in Christian love and charity. Their names were Zeisberger and Mack, and in a written account kept by one he writes that, having heard of famine and sickness among the Indians up the West Branch, they started from Shamokin and made the perilous journey to visit them, reaching Great Island toward the evening of July 11, 17~~48~~⁴⁵. They found a small-pox epidemic prevailing; the Indian men had been driven away by the famine, and only a few old squaws remained on the island to attend the sick. In one hut, he writes, they saw a kettle hung in which common grass was being stewed, which the inmates ate with

*It is probable that Indian traders were here long before this date. A map of the Susquehanna River, made in 1701, by Isaac Taylor, surveyor of Chester County, locates James LeTort's store at the site of Northumberland. He was a French Indian trader, and his location was well chosen, as it commanded both rivers. French explorers from Canada were very active during the first half of the last century. *History of Northumberland County*, p. 31. Also *Colonial Records*, Vol. II., p. 100. White messengers from the Colonial Governor visited Shamokin (now Sunbury) as early as 1728. *Revised History West Branch Valley*, p. 92.

eagerness. These two messengers of God ministered to the sick, shared with these unfortunate people their scanty food, and tried to teach them of Him in whose name they came, and thus in that lonely and plague-stricken spot on yonder island, which lies within our view, was meekly displayed almost a century and a half ago the wondrous love of man to man born of true Christianity. Truly, the first coming of the pale face was not fraught with danger to the red man, nor does history show any wrongs to justify or excuse the driving from their homes and savage butchery of our early settlers by these same Indians, or their descendants, in 1778, to whose wigwams full thirty years before those white men had come in mercy and in love.

The first white settler within the present territory of Clinton County is believed to have been one Cleary Campbell. He was found here when the Allison surveying party came in 1769, with whom was William Dunn, and as nearly as can be told, his cabin was built near where the Normal School now stands. Campbell lacked the force of Dunn, and, unlike him, failed to impress himself upon his surroundings, and little more is known of him except that he removed from this locality, and is said to have died in 1809, at advanced old age, in Centre County.

The extreme western fortification for defense against the Indians was a log house called Fort Reed, after William Reed, by whom it was built. This stood, according to the best data, on the river bank near the canal lock just below the bridge, in what is now Lock Haven. It was the outpost where settlers gathered in times of danger, and bore much of the brunt of Indian savagery, but was, of necessity, abandoned early in the Big Runaway, in 1778.

PINE CREEK PATRIOTISM.

To illustrate the sterling qualities, intelligence and loyal impulses of our valley pioneers, and to show how they

kept abreast of and in line with current events, although located so remotely from the centre of action, it will not be amiss to state a fact of which we may all well be proud, which is, that on the fourth day of July, 1776, the West Branch settlers assembled a few miles below here on the plains of Pine Creek and formally renounced their allegiance to and declared themselves entitled to be free and independent of the mother country.* This was on the very day the world-famous Declaration of Independence was proclaimed at Philadelphia, but we must remember that in those days there was no telegraph or telephone, or even mails, and those patriots at Pine Creek could not have known what was transpiring two hundred miles away, nor could they have guessed that on that same day Liberty's voice would be heard in the distant city of Brotherly Love, in tones and words so much like their own as to make one seem an echo of the other.

These men, of course, had known in meagre way of the agitation among the colonies; they had thought and reasoned here in their frontier homes, and having sprung from sturdy stock, they came to their own conclusions without waiting to be led, and thus did it seem as if Liberty had found spontaneous tongue, and as if the air was surcharged with love of freedom. Although in these weak valley settlements they were compelled to till the soil and gather their crops armed and in company for safety against the Indians, yet when the call came for men for the Revolution, as many went as could be spared, and more as afterwards proved, when those who remained behind were driven from their homes. In one company alone were 70 volunteers—riflemen—all unmarried, who marched to Boston and fought for liberty there and throughout the war; and just as they went

* For an account of this patriotic affair, together with the names of the participants, see Revised History West Branch Valley, p. 471.

forth from this fair valley in Revolutionary days, so their brave descendants went forth in 1861 to maintain what their ancestors had won, and from this little town alone, with its population of only a few hundred then all told, went at least sixteen men, in the strength and enthusiasm of young and vigorous years, to repeat the story of West Branch valor when duty calls; and as the patriotic sons of the West Branch fought at Boston and other battle fields of the Revolution, so did their descendants strive for their country's cause when rebellion reared its head in our land, and their valor is recorded in the annals of our civil war, there to remain forever and to be read and studied in coming years by those who follow them and us, to whom the story will be as entrancing quite as are to us the recitals of the deeds of our early heroes and pioneers, and through these patriotic men Dunnstown will live in history, though she has not acquired greatness or grown to metropolitan fame.

CONCLUSION.

But I must close, for time will not allow, nor in fact does this occasion strictly call for an attempt at review in detail of the history of our valley, although it furnishes themes well worthy of the artist's brush, the poet's rhyme, and the historian's pen. Nor can I, although it would please me so to do, make special mention of those substantial settlers and pioneers whose traits, acquired by descent and training, proved so well adapted to the emergencies of the times, and to the formulating of the affairs of this new land. They were of the kind of men who looked upon danger as merely something to be braved, and upon obstacles as arising only to be overcome. Not rich, of course, in this world's goods, but rich in those traits which lead to prosperity, they ventured here with those they loved, and in the scenes and trials through which they passed the bravest hero of whom we read found his counterpart, and the most heroic and

devoted wife and matron could behold her equal, while youth and maiden too, faithful to the loins from which they sprang, rallied to assist as best they could in the common defense of field, fireside and humble home. There are valuable teachings in these things and in this occasion for us. May they strengthen our sense of duty as citizens, stimulate our patriotism and love of country, and imbue us with the sentiment that inspired the closing lines of the beautiful hymn you sang to-day—

“Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.”

At the close of the address the military band rendered a popular air, when one of the most pleasing incidents of the day took place. It was the introduction to the audience of William Stanley Dunn, the great-great-great-grandson of the founder of Dunnstown. The little fellow was held aloft so that the crowd could obtain a full view of him.

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. J. R. King, when the vast audience repaired to the school house, where the flag-raising ceremonies, under the auspices of the O. U. A. M., took place. H. T. Hall, Esq., District Attorney of Clinton County, delivered an address which was replete with patriotic sentiments and eloquent references to the pioneers who came here to found homes where they could be free from the oppressions of foreign rulers.

When his address was concluded the consolidated bands played the National airs, and while the strains of the “Red, White and Blue” were echoing and re-echoing along the valley, the Misses Blanche Bollinger, Grace Nowell, Pearl Williams and Grace McCloskey began pulling at the rope that played through the pulley at the top of the high pole, and a moment later the stars and stripes were waving, the people cheering, and Company H's firing squad saluting the

colors with volley after volley of blank cartridges. When the enthusiasm had subsided, Mr. Adde, in behalf of Clinton Council O. U. A. M., in a few appropriate words, formally presented the flag to the Woodward School Board, and Mr. C. H. Nowell, President of the Board of Directors, accepted the gift on the part of the Board.

This closed the day's proceedings, which marked the beginning of a new epoch in the history of Clinton County.

TRAGEDY AT AN EVICTION.

Samuel Robb and his wife, Lydia, soon after their marriage, emigrated from Muncy, in 1800, to Butler County, and settled on a tract of land lying a short distance west of the borough of Butler. This land was afterwards claimed by Stephen Lowry, who bought largely of the Robert Morris lands at Marshal's sale in 1807. Lowry made an attempt to evict Robb about the 1st of October, 1815, as he held the warrant for the land. Peter Parchment, the United States Marshal, with a posse, was present to enforce the process. Lowry also accompanied the party. As several evictions had been made before of settlers on different tracts, there was great excitement among the settlers, and a bitter feeling entertained towards Lowry. In the squabble which ensued when the Marshal attempted to evict Robb, a shot was fired and a young man named Abraham Maxwell, aged twenty-six, was killed. It was afterwards learned that the bullet was intended for Lowry, but missed its mark. This broke up the eviction business, but it never could be clearly established who fired the shot.

Stephen Lowry was from Queen Anne County, Maryland, and died in Pittsburg in 1820.

Samuel Robb belonged to the famous family of that name at Muncy. Who was his wife, Lydia? Who can furnish the information?

RARE LOCAL BOOKS FOR SALE.

OTZINACHSON; OR, A HISTORY OF THE WEST BRANCH VALLEY OF THE SUSQUEHANNA. By John F. Meginness, 1889. Illustrated; pp. 707. This revised standard work gives an exhaustive history of the Valley, Indian wars, massacres, &c., with maps, diagrams and antiquities. Cloth, \$3.50; half morocco, \$5.

BIOGRAPHY OF FRANCES SLOCUM, THE LOST SISTER OF WYOMING. By John F. Meginness, 1891. Illustrated; pp. 250. Fifty years in captivity. Strangest story in the annals of Indian literature. Cloth, \$2.25; half morocco, \$3.

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